

BBC

FROM THE MAKERS OF BBC HISTORY MAGAZINE

Classic Stories

THE STORY OF BRITAIN



A whistle-stop tour of the key characters and events



£7.99

Roman occupation • Viking attacks • Anglo-Saxon invasions • 1066 & the Normans
• Tudor Kings & Queens • Civil War & the Stuarts • The Industrial Revolution
• A Global Empire • The World at War PLUS 40 HISTORICAL DAYS OUT

FROM THE MAKERS OF  **HiSTORY** MAGAZINE



Save when you subscribe
to the digital edition



BBC History Magazine is Britain's bestselling history magazine. We feature leading historians writing lively and thought-provoking new takes on the great events of the past.

Available from



zinioTM



WELCOME



Take a look around Britain today and you will see a country that is shaped by its past. Whether it is the style of buildings we live in, the languages we speak, the religions we may (or may not) follow, or even the mix of peoples that inhabit these isles, there is no getting away from our history. In fact, it is

almost impossible to understand the Britain of 2016 without a knowledge of its past.

In this special edition, you will discover 5,000 years of British history, from the mysteries of Stonehenge, to the modern Internet Age. Along the way, you will find out about some of the most dramatic events in our journey, including the Roman invasion, the battle of Hastings, the gunpowder plot and the two world wars.

You will also meet famous figures like Elizabeth I, William Shakespeare, Isaac Newton and Winston Churchill. As well as these historical 'celebrities', you'll get to see how ordinary men, women and children lived and faced the challenges that came their way.

This book has been put together by the makers of *BBC History Magazine*, which takes a fresh look at the past every four weeks. If you like what you've read here, then why not head to your local newsagent to pick up a copy? There is so much to explore, in so many different ways, that I hope for many of you *The Story of Britain* will be just the beginning.

Rob Attar
Editor

BSME Editor of the Year 2015, Special Interest Brand

HiHISTORY MAGAZINE

EDITORIAL

Editor Rob Attar

robertattar@historyextra.com

Managing editor Paul McGuinness

Production editor Mel Sherwood

Sub-editor Rebecca Candler

Editorial assistant Emma Jolliffe

Production assistant Rob Williams

Writers Sean Lang, Rupert Matthews, Nick Rennison, Miles Russell

ART & PICTURES

Art editor Sheu-Kuei Ho

Designer Lisa White

Picture editor James Cutmore

Picture researcher Rhiannon Furbear-Williams

Illustrators Glen McBeth, Martin Sanders

Additional work by Susanne Frank, Spencer Mizen, Sam Nott

With thanks to Sarah Foot, Damian McGee, Mark Ormrod and Mark Stoye

BBC History Magazine is published by Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited under licence from BBC Worldwide who help fund new BBC programmes. *BBC History Magazine* was established to publish authoritative history, written by leading experts, in an accessible and attractive format. We seek to maintain the high journalistic standards traditionally associated with the BBC.

PRESS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Press officer Dominic Lobley

020 7150 5015 – dominic.lobley@immediate.co.uk

SYNDICATION

Head of licensing & syndication Tim Hudson

International Partners' Manager Anna Brown

PRODUCTION

Production director Sarah Powell

Production co-ordinator Emily Mounter

IMMEDIATE MEDIA COMPANY

Publisher David Musgrove

Publishing director Andy Healy

Managing director Andy Marshall

CEO Tom Bureau

Deputy chairman Peter Phippen

Chairman Stephen Alexander

BBC WORLDWIDE

Director of editorial governance Nicholas Brett

Director of consumer products and publishing Andrew Moultrie

Head of UK publishing Chris Kerwin

Publisher Mandy Thwaites

Publishing co-ordinator Eva Abramik UK. Publishing@bbc.com
www.bbcworldwide.com/uk--anz/ukpublishing.aspx

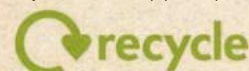
IMMEDIATE MEDIA

© Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited, 2016 –
ISSN: 1469 8552

Not for resale. All rights reserved. Unauthorised reproduction in whole or part is prohibited without written permission. Every effort has been made to secure permission for copyright material. In the event of any material being used inadvertently, or where it proved impossible to trace the copyright owner, acknowledgement will be made in a future issue. MSS, photographs and artwork are accepted on the basis that *BBC History Magazine* and its agents do not accept liability for loss or damage to same. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the publisher.

We abide by IPSO's rules and regulations. To give feedback about our magazines, please visit immediate.co.uk, email editorialcomplaints@immediate.co.uk or write to Katherine Conlon, Immediate Media Co, Vineyard House, 44 Brook Green, London W6 7BT

Immediate Media Company is working to ensure that all of its paper is sourced from well-managed forests. This magazine can be recycled, for use in newspapers and packaging.



When you have finished with
this magazine please recycle it.

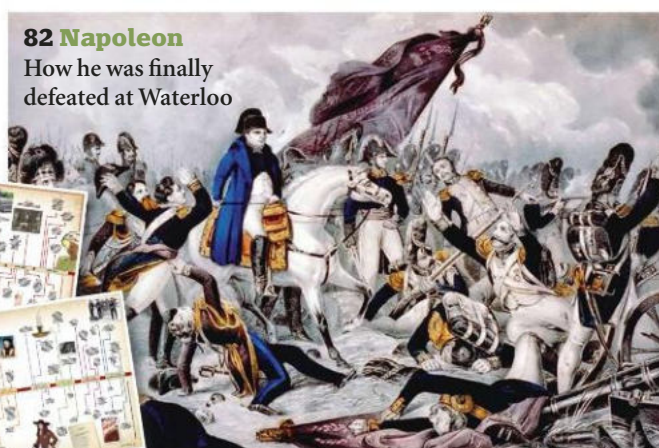
CONTENTS



42 The Black Death
Discover how the plague spread through Europe



6 Pre-Roman Britain
Early human settlements



82 Napoleon
How he was finally defeated at Waterloo



6 Pre-Roman Britain

What were the first-ever Britons like?

34 Timeline: People

The kings, queens and notable figures of the nation

60 Timeline: Inventions and discoveries

All the inventions, from flushing toilets to steam engines

86 Timeline: Culture and society

Follow the development of money, art and entertainment

Roman Britain
AD 43–410

The Invaders
410–1066

Medieval Britain
1066–1485

Early Modern
1485–1603

10 Roman Britain

Part of the Roman empire

12 Julius Caesar's double invasion

He tries to conquer, twice

13 Boudica

Revolts against the Romans

14 How Roman was Britain?

Did we embrace their way?

15 What did the Romans do for us?

The legacy they left behind

16 Roman life

What was daily life like?

18 Hadrian's wall

Why was it built?

22 The Invaders

Everyone wants a bit of Britain

24 King Arthur

Was he real or a myth?

25 Anglo-Saxons

Rule for six centuries

26 Alfred the Great

What made him great?

27 The rise of Christianity

How the religion spread

28 The Vikings

Raiders, traders and colonists

30 Norman invasion

The start of a new age

36 Medieval Britain

Knights battle it out

38 Thomas Becket

Murder in the cathedral

39 Scottish independence

Did Robert the Bruce triumph?

40 Owain Glyndŵr

Drives the English out of Wales

41 The Magna Carta

What was its significance?

42 The Black Death

What caused the plague?

44 Wars of the Roses

Henry Tudor takes the throne

48 Early Modern

The Tudors rule England

50 Henry VIII

And his many wives

51 Mary, Queen of Scots

Murder, marriage and treason

52 William Shakespeare

The man behind the plays

53 The Spanish Armada

Victory against the odds

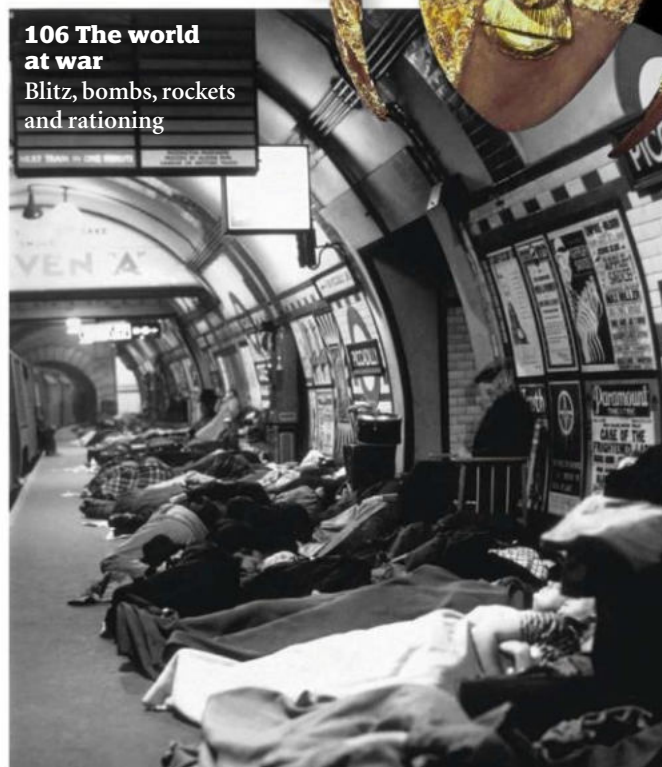
54 Tudor seafaring

The importance of the navy

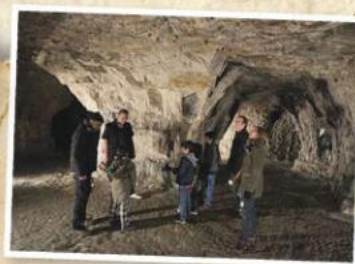
56 The Reformation

The rise of Protestantism

25 Anglo-Saxons
What these people brought to Britain



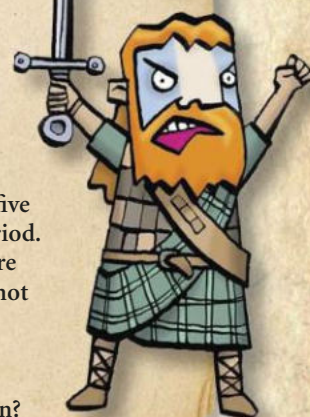
106 The world at war
Blitz, bombs, rockets and rationing



40 Historical Days Out

Places to visit

At the end of every chapter, you'll find five fantastic days out that relate to that period. Designed to bring history alive, these are guaranteed fun for all the family. Why not explore Cosmeston Medieval Village in Glamorgan? Or perhaps Southwell Workhouse, where you can experience what life was like as a destitute Victorian?



The Stuarts
1603–1714

62 The Stuarts
Plots, fire and civil wars

64 The Union of the Crowns
The formation of a single state

65 The gunpowder plot
The story behind Guy Fawkes

66 Sir Isaac Newton
One of the greatest scientists

67 The Restoration
The return of the king

68 The Civil Wars
Crown vs. parliament

70 The Plague and Great Fire of London
Destruction in the capital

Georgian Britain
1714–1837

74 Georgian Britain
Britain is a world power

76 The Jacobite uprisings
Dispute over the rightful king

77 The abolition of slavery
Slaves are freed in 1833

78 Jane Austen
The woman behind Mr Darcy

79 Ireland and Britain
The creation of the UK

80 The industrial revolution
From agriculture to machines

82 Napoleon
And the battle of Waterloo

Victorian Britain
1837–1901

88 Victorian Britain
Industry continues to boom

90 Queen Victoria
The longest reigning ruler

91 The workhouses
The fate of the poor

92 Isambard Kingdom Brunel
Trains, stations and bridges

93 Charles Darwin
And his theory on evolution

94 The British empire
The largest empire in history

96 Railways
The rail network expands

Modern Britain
1901–present

100 Modern Britain
Building a more diverse state

102 The labour movement
Demand for workers' rights

103 Women's suffrage
Women win the right to vote

104 The end of the empire
The rise of the Commonwealth

105 Northern Ireland
The Good Friday Agreement

106 The world at war
Two wars leave their mark

108 Technology
A century of change

In the beginning

Early humans first came to Britain across a land bridge; the Romans came to invade by boat. But what happened in between?

ONE OF THE MOST important questions in British archaeology today is also one of the most unanswerable: when, exactly, did the first humans arrive in these islands? Half-a-million years ago, the area we now understand as Britain and Ireland simply did not exist. The waters that today define the British Isles and separate it from mainland Europe were then locked in an immense ice sheet. With sea levels 100m lower than today, large areas of land connected what is now southern England to northern France, the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark. It was across this land bridge, sometime between 814,000 and 478,000 years ago, that early humans first moved.

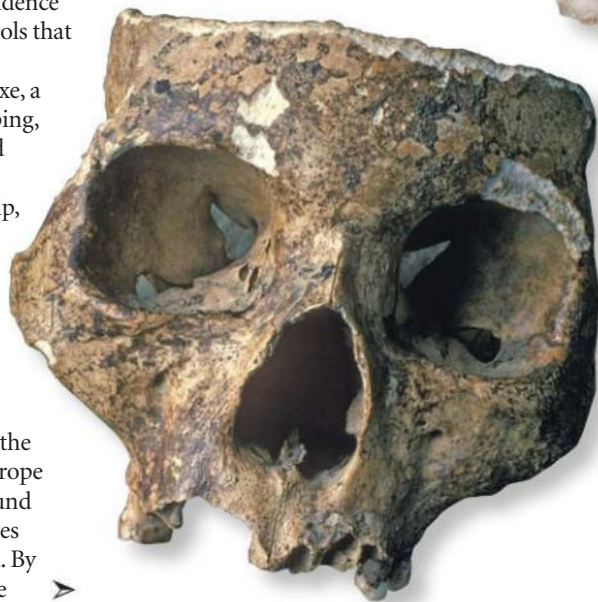
Finding traces of our Paleolithic (or 'Old Stone Age') ancestors can be notoriously difficult, given that they had very little impact upon their surroundings. The first hunters did not create houses, nor build monuments; they did not enclose the land nor formally bury their dead and, as a consequence, they can appear

archaeologically invisible. Small amounts of human bone have been found at Swanscombe in Kent and Boxgrove in West Sussex, both sites dating to between 500,000–400,000 BC, but the best evidence for the period comprises the stone tools that our ancestors made and used.

Chief among these was the handaxe, a multi-purpose object used for chopping, cutting, skinning, dismembering and jointing animal carcasses. Its basic shape made it surprisingly easy to grip, especially when its owner was covered up to the elbows in blood and gristle, and their long sharp cutting edges meant they could be used in a variety of ingenious ways.

Humanity arrives

A resurgence of the ice fields pushed the first humans out of northwestern Europe but, at the end of the last ice age, around 13,000 years ago, average temperatures began to rise and humanity returned. By 7000 BC, following the melting of the



The earliest primitive humans in Britain were found in Norfolk, where they hunted mammoths and giant elks.



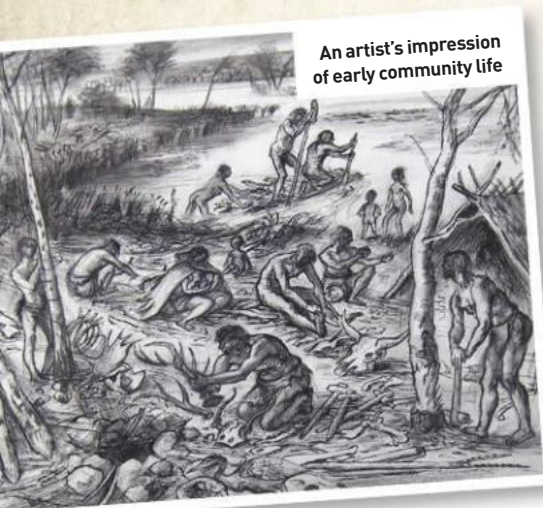
Scraping through

A flint knife and scraper dating from between 8500–2000 BC. These would have been used to skin carcasses and to scrape pelts and animal bones. During this period, humans developed the skill of grinding and polishing these flints to create better cutting edges.

Hello, hunter-gatherer. I, a woman, look for edible roots, berries and green plants that we can eat, whereas you, a man, go out hunting animals for meat. Which is fine, don't get me wrong. But I was just reading these feminist cave paintings...

Avebury stone circle forms part of a 'sacred landscape', but its purpose remains unknown

Pre-Roman Britain



An artist's impression of early community life

➤ northern glaciers and the subsequent release of water into the rivers and seas. Britain and Ireland finally become separated from the rest of mainland Europe.

Humans returning to the British Isles were modern in every sense of the word but remained, like their Paleolithic ancestors, dependent upon hunting and gathering for food. Mesolithic (or 'Middle Stone Age') society was remarkably successful, with human groups adapting to a series of varied landscapes and environments over several thousand years. During this period, humans began to build animal traps, shelters and houses, as well as removing trees through cutting and deliberate burning.

These hunter-gatherers were highly mobile, exploiting the resources of different parts of the country throughout all times of the year. Most sites of the period were small-scale and temporary, hunters moving between seasonally occupied bases, such as

the famous lakeside settlement of Star Carr in North Yorkshire. After 6000 BC, larger

and more permanently occupied camps started to develop.

Settling down

The Neolithic (or 'New Stone Age') period that followed, from around 4000 BC, represents a dramatic time of social change, marking the beginning of farming, the arrival of new artefacts such as pottery, the domestication of animals and the formation of more permanent settlements such as Skara Brae on Orkney. The earliest forms of monument, such as the large ditched enclosures of Windmill Hill in Wiltshire, and the long barrows and megalithic tombs like Stoney Littleton in Somerset and Newgrange in County Meath, were constructed; the former acting as well-defined centres of settlement, the latter as places of burial.

Between 2700 and 2000 BC, objects of copper and gold were imported into Britain and Ireland by a new wave of settlers during the Early Bronze Age. Use of metal appears alongside new forms of pottery, such as the 'beaker', and new types of monument such as the round barrow, henge and stone circle. These were all built by humans struggling to understand and control the natural world around them.

Force fields

By 1400 BC, in the Later Bronze Age, the appearance of metal swords and daggers suggests that pressure on the land and subsequent disputes between different groups were being resolved by force. The first clear evidence of permanent farming settlements also appears at this time, with substantial roundhouses enclosed by fences and fields, as do our first defended hillforts. By 600 BC, with the beginning of the Early

Examples of deer skulls and antlers worn as head-dresses have been found in Britain dating back 9,500 years. They may have been worn for special occasions or by hunters as a disguise. Look at me! I'm a deer! Honest!



Iron Age, further change came in the form of ways of treating the dead – cremation dates back past this time – and new types of metal technology were also developed.

By the end of first century BC, the emerging tribes of Iron Age Britain and Ireland were coming into contact with traders from Greece and Rome. These Mediterranean explorers documented what they saw; a process accelerated when the Roman empire acquired territory in what is now France and Germany. The British Isles were starting to emerge from the darkness of prehistory and onto the pages of recorded history. **H**

BBC For more about prehistoric Britain, visit www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/british_prehistory

Buried truth
It is believed that Stonehenge was raised between 3000–2500 BC. It may have been a burial ground initially; cremated remains have been found on the site.



Pre-Roman Britain

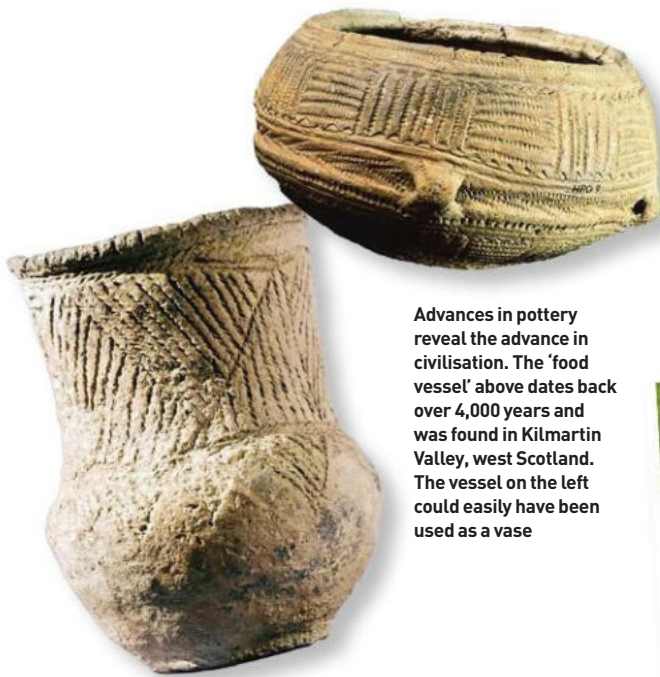
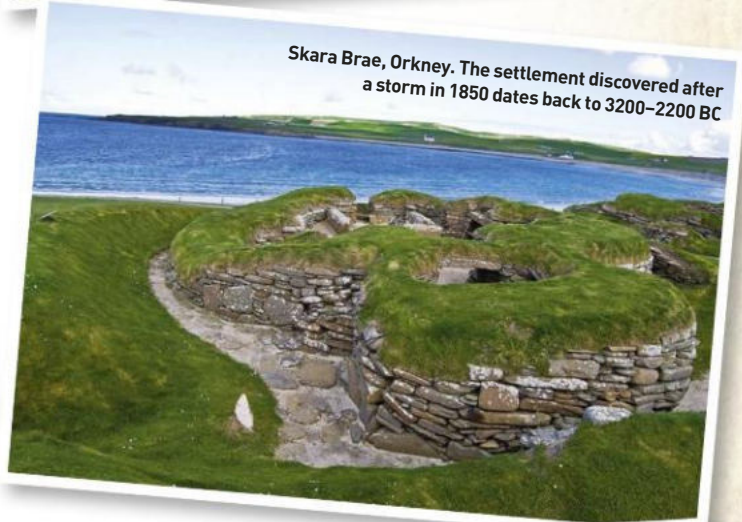


Moulding the future
The earliest method for making axes in the Bronze Age would have been creating a mould. The shape of the axe would have been carved into a block of stone. Bronze would be poured into the mould after having been fired.

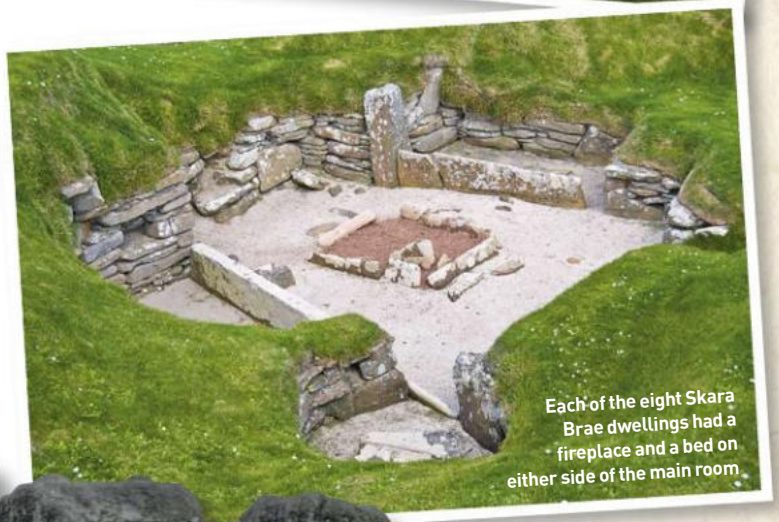
The entrance to Stoney Littleton Long Barrow, from the Neolithic era, which contains multiple burial chambers



Skara Brae, Orkney. The settlement discovered after a storm in 1850 dates back to 3200–2200 BC



Advances in pottery reveal the advance in civilisation. The 'food vessel' above dates back over 4,000 years and was found in Kilmartin Valley, west Scotland. The vessel on the left could easily have been used as a vase



Each of the eight Skara Brae dwellings had a fireplace and a bed on either side of the main room





This Medusa mosaic floor was found intact at Bignor, West Sussex

AD 43–410

Roman Britain

They came, they saw, they conquered. But what legacy did the Romans leave Britain?

AT A GLANCE



Julius Caesar's invasions

p12



Boudica

p13



How Roman was Britain?

p14



What did the Romans do for us?

p15



Life in Roman Britain

p16



Hadrian's wall

p18

At the end of the first century BC, society in Britain and Ireland comprised a series of competing clans and tribal groups. Land was being intensively farmed and food supply was under the control of wealthy kings and queens, each supported by their own private army.

Settlements were being increasingly defended as territories expanded and came into open conflict. All this was happening at a time when over in mainland Europe, large areas of land were being absorbed into the rapidly expanding Roman empire. By the mid-first century AD, Roman eyes were turning towards Britain.

Britain represented a great prize for Rome: it had large amounts of grain and cattle, necessary to feed Rome's army and urban poor,

while iron, lead, gold and tin could be found in relatively abundant quantities in the south and west. War in Britain could also mean the acquisition of slaves – prisoners of war who could do all the difficult and unpleasant jobs within the empire that Roman citizens could not (or would not) do.

Since the time of Julius Caesar, in the mid-50s BC, the tribes of south-eastern Britain had been allies of Rome, protected by treaty, so that any imperial army landing in this part of the island would be treated as friends, rather than invaders to be resisted. All things considered, Britain looked like an ideal place for Rome to add to its empire.

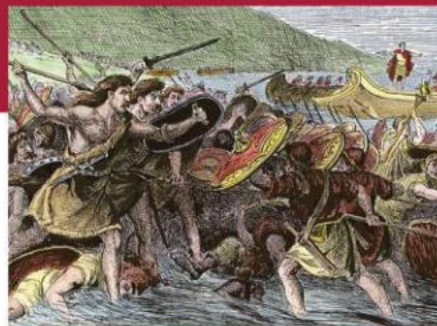
*Roman slaves
Once bought, a slave was a slave for life, unless they bought their own freedom or were freed by their master. A wealthy citizen could have up to 500 slaves.*

Expanding the empire

When the invasion came in AD 43, ordered by the Emperor Claudius, a man who desperately needed to win ➤

King Caratacus

When the Romans attacked in AD 43, they met some resistance in the form of King Caratacus and his tribe, the Catuvellauni. During one battle, Caratacus escaped capture and fled north, where he was promptly arrested and handed over to the Romans. Emperor Claudius was so impressed with him, he let Caratacus live out the rest of his days in Rome.



The Romans came on rowing boats that weren't suitable for stormy Channel waters

Julius Caesar's double invasion

If at first you don't succeed... come back next year and try invading again

By 55 BC, the Roman general Julius Caesar had conquered much of France and Belgium, and led troops on a campaign into Germany. These superhuman achievements were being celebrated by the people of Rome and were used by Caesar as a way of advancing his own personal power. The expeditions he led into Britain in 55 and 54 BC were part of this plan of self-promotion: they were not intended as permanent conquest, but they helped advance his cause as Rome's premier general.

The expedition of 55 BC was not a great success. Trapped on the beach and hemmed in by the enemy, Caesar eventually managed to strike a deal with the British, leaving hastily in a fleet of storm-damaged ships. Within a year he was back. This time, he advanced deep into Britain. Caesar defeated King Cassivellaunos, the first Briton whose name we know, before returning to France in triumph.

Ultimately, the campaigns achieved very little, although they did result in a number of British tribes, such as the Trinovantes of Essex, being left as nominal allies of Rome, thus setting the stage for further intervention should these British 'friends' ever be threatened.

Timeline 55 BC–AD 78

c10 AD
Cunobelinus begins to build a powerful kingdom in southern England

AD 51
Caratacus, British resistance leader, is captured by the Romans

AD 78
Roman conquest of Wales is completed in Anglesey, by general Agricola

55 BC
Julius Caesar invades Britain for the first time

AD 43
Emperor Claudius launches an invasion force on Britain

AD 60
Boudica leads the Iceni tribe in a revolt against Roman rule

Boudica was born into a wealthy family and given lessons on how to fight

The Romans
AD 43–410

410–1066

1066–1485

1485–1603

1603–1714

1714–1837

1837–1901

1901–present

Come on troops,
follow me! Let's show these
pesky Romans who's boss.
Thinking they can come in, steal
our land and abuse us – well
we'll soon show them what
we think of that!

Boudica

This fearless warrior queen led a revolt against the Romans – she might not have won the war, but she certainly gave them a fright

Boudica is arguably one of the best known leaders from Roman Britain. As queen of the Iceni tribe, based in Norfolk, she is remembered as the leader of a revolt against Rome that killed between 80,000 and 200,000 civilians.

What tends to be forgotten, however, is that both Boudica and her husband, Prasutagus, were initially friends of Rome, the Iceni being treated as an important ally.

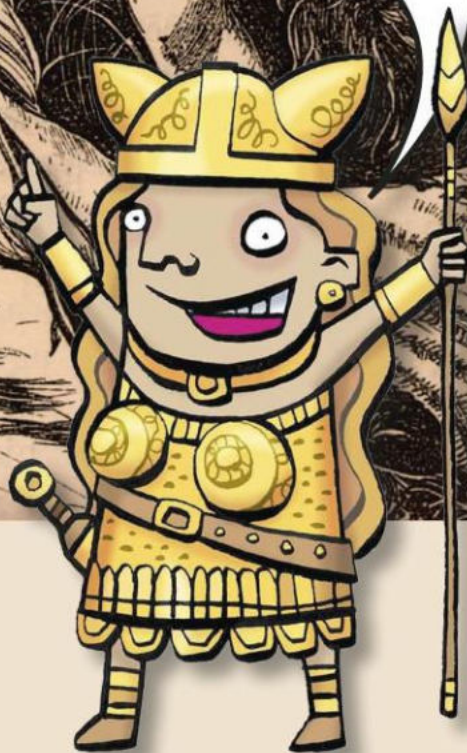
As the Roman military advanced west into Wales, the Iceni were left to their own devices, with payments of silver

encouraging them to remain loyal to Rome. In AD 60, after the death of Prasutagus, agents of the new emperor Nero stripped the Iceni of their lands and decided to rule them directly. Angered by this, the tribe rebelled and, together with the Trinovantes tribe of Essex, descended upon Colchester, London and St Albans, burning them to the ground and killing everyone they found.

The aftermath

Rome's whole investment in Britain was at stake and, had it not been for the swift

action of the governor, Gaius Suetonius Paulinus, whose army inflicted a huge defeat on the rebels, the province would have been lost. Boudica did not survive the rebellion and her tribe, the Iceni, were almost wiped out in the punishments that followed. It is unsure exactly how or where Boudica died. Some have suggested that she poisoned herself rather than be captured by the Romans. The revolt had been a huge shock for Rome and, from this point on, emperors would never again rely solely upon native leaders for support.



➤ a war in order gain popularity with his own people, only one tribe in the south-east, the Catuvellauni of Essex, resisted. After a series of battles, the leader of the British resistance, King Caratacus, eventually fled to the relative security of northern England, his capital at Colchester being captured after a short siege. The remaining tribes of southern Britain all appear to have quickly surrendered to Rome at this time, their leaders being rewarded for making such a sensible decision with cash as well as with brand new Roman towns and roads.

With the south-east of Britain secure, the armies of the Emperor Claudius moved west, into less certain territory. The conquest of western and northern Britain would take another forty years, Roman troops finding it difficult to fight and build forts to control the natives in the mountainous landscape of Wales. Here, they

were fighting tribes who, unlike those of southern England, did not see them as friends. Eventually, Wales and northern England were added to the Roman empire, remaining an important part of it for over three centuries. During this time, Scotland was only temporarily Roman and Ireland was never under Roman rule.

Different leagues

Roman Britain, from the first to the fourth century AD, can be roughly divided into three unequal parts: the civilian south and east, the militarised north, and the west – where mining took precedence over everything, including the development of towns. In the civilian south, new towns with all the comforts of Rome were created from

The mineral wealth of Wales made it an appealing conquest for the Romans even if it was tricky. They finally conquered all the country in AD 77.

the mid-first century. When Rome had first invaded, the strategy had been to establish control, delegate authority to friendly natives and then, when everything appeared secure, withdraw troops to fight elsewhere. To this end, the new towns recognised old tribal identities, being placed on or near to former Iron Age native centres. Local princes, kings and queens were expected to work for Rome and persuade their people to do the same.

Colony towns, for retired soldiers who had completed 25 years of service in the Roman army, were also established in some areas of Britain, close to former army bases. The provincial capital was created in London, on the north bank of the river Thames, a location with excellent access ➤

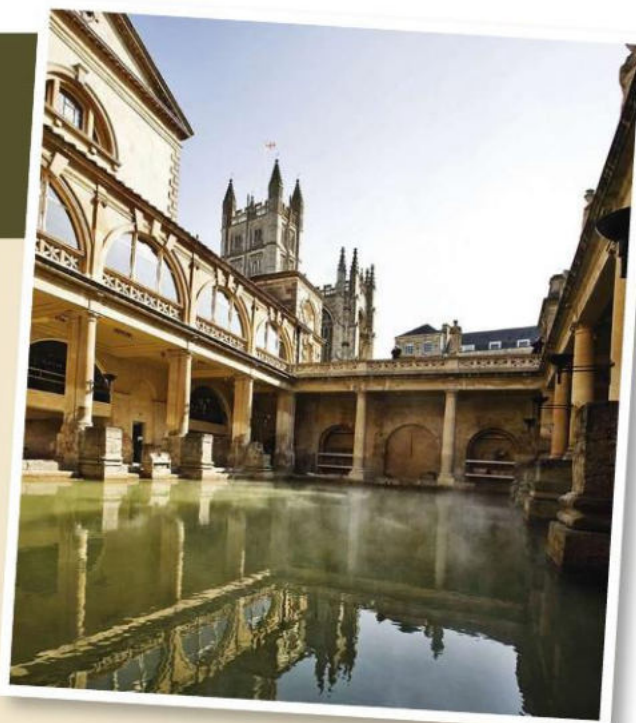
How Roman was Britain?

From baths to battles – the Romans enforced their way of life on every country they conquered

In the south and east of England, the influence of Rome looks thin in comparison with other parts of the empire. New towns were created, though few were truly successful, most never being used to their full potential with only the houses of the wealthy having mosaics and painted plaster.

Beyond the towns, there were villas, though these provided accommodation for less than one per cent of the total population. Those who wanted to be part of the new system, making money through business, displayed their Roman-ness much as the supremely rich demonstrate their wealth and status today, but the vast bulk of the population possessed neither the desire nor the cash to be Roman.

In the north and west of England and in northern Wales, large areas of the countryside look about as Roman as Ireland, which was never exploited by Rome. Yes, there were forts, but these were small pockets of Roman culture set in uncertain or hostile territory where troops worshipped their own gods and officers imported Roman delicacies. Beyond this artificial 'bubble', the native population continued to live much as it had always done. Some Britons moved to the forts to exploit the new markets. However, most continued with life as it had been before.



The temple at the Roman baths, Bath, was built in AD 60–70 and construction on the complex continued for the next 300 years

THINKSTOCK ALAMY X3

Timeline AD 90–410

AD 122
Construction of Hadrian's Wall begins by order of the emperor

c160 AD
The Romans withdraw from the Antonine to Hadrian's Wall

AD 213
Britannia is split into two – superior and inferior

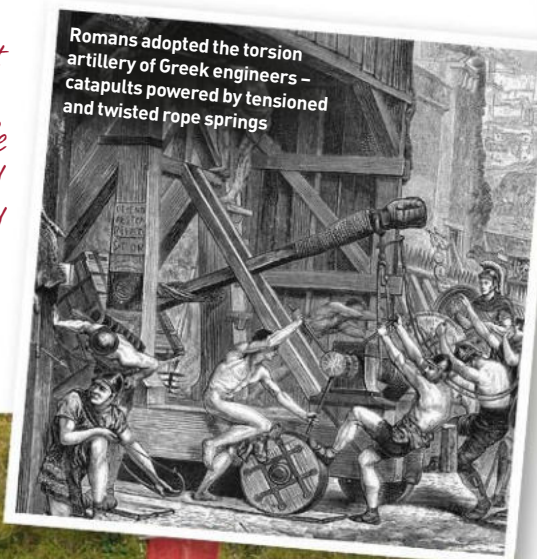
AD 90
Roman troops are pulled back from north and east Scotland

AD 140
The Antonine Wall is the northern-most frontier of Roman Britain

c210 AD
Emperor Caracalla puts a stop to the war against Scotland

Fighting for the empire

The Roman army was a force to be reckoned with. There were at least 25 legions with 5,000–6,000 men in each one. Soldiers would be armed with a spear, a short sword and a dagger. They also developed catapults for long-range combat. When soldiers retired, they were given a plot of land.



The Romans
AD 43–410

What did the Romans ever do for us?

Apart from building some fabulous public baths...

Roman culture never fully embedded itself within Britain during the four centuries it was part of the Roman empire, and had no lasting impact in the period that followed. Spain and France were more successfully assimilated into Rome, but both areas had been on the fringes of Roman influence for centuries longer than Britain ever had. Also, both countries were devastated by the invasion of the Romans – over two-thirds of the population of France was killed or enslaved by Julius Caesar alone, making any resistance to the Roman model of control and development far less effective. There was no such widespread disruption and death in Britain, where tribal networks remained in place.

If Roman culture and identity were only really adopted by the people who made the province run effectively, then perhaps it is unsurprising that Roman culture did not leave a legacy. Unlike France and Spain, the language, legal system, culture and customs of Britain ultimately owe very little to ancient Rome.

410–1066

1066–1485

1485–1603

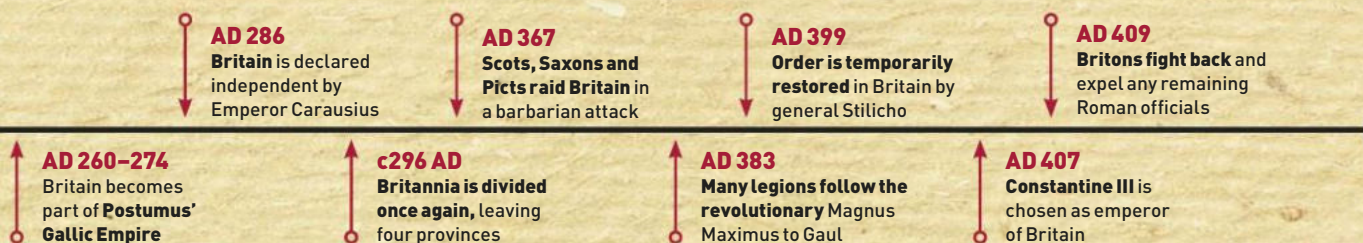
1603–1714

1714–1837

1837–1901

1901–present

ROMAN BATHS – There were three main rooms: the *caldarium* (hot room), *tepidarium* (warm room) and *frigidarium* (cold room). Some also had an outdoor gym area and a steam room.



Life in Roman Britain

What was daily life like for Britons under Roman rule?

A number of new towns were created across southern Britain in the late first century AD. Each was provided with a *forum* (the market) and a *basilica* (the town hall and centre of local government). Beyond this, streets were full of private houses and a range of public amenities. Every Roman town would have a bathhouse, the most important place to meet, relax and socialise with other people. Theatres, amphitheatres and circuses housed essential sporting and spectator events: amphitheatres for gladiator fights, wild beast hunts and the execution of criminals; theatres for plays and religious performances; and circuses for chariot racing. Temples were set up to a variety of Roman gods, such as Jupiter, Minerva and Mars, and their native British equivalents.

Urban living

Away from the grandeur of the main buildings, little is really known about everyday life in the towns of Britain. Excavation has shown a variety of wattle and daub, timber and thatched houses and more Mediterranean-style stone houses with rooms facing an enclosed courtyard. In some instances, the part of a

house fronting the street was occupied by a shop, with basic accommodation above. Anyone living in the town would have encountered Roman fashions and used Roman coins for buying and selling goods on a daily basis.

Farming in style

In the countryside, along the new roads that stretched between the towns, some of the more prosperous farms evolved into high-status villas. A villa was the grand centrepiece to a great farming estate, much like the stately houses of Britain in the 17th and 18th centuries, and provided the luxurious home for a well-to-do family. Here, agricultural estates were managed and, in the

absence of a police force, villa owners dispensed the law, deciding punishments as they saw fit. Aside from being a farm, family home and place of local law enforcement, a villa also acted as a place of entertainment, where landowners, aristocrats and officials could meet, have fun and do business. In most villas, the distinction between private rooms and those set aside for dinner parties was

clear enough – dining rooms possessed the best mosaics and the most elaborate forms of wall-painting.

The poorer classes

By contrast, slaves have left very little mark in the archaeological record and were not even mentioned by contemporary Roman writers and historians.

Direct routes
Before the Romans, Britain just had dirt tracks. The Romans knew the quickest way to get anywhere was in a straight line, which is why their roads tend to be so straight.

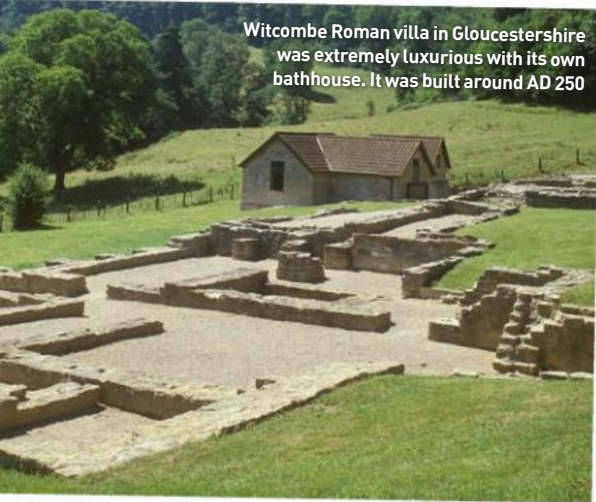


A villa was the grand centrepiece of a great farming estate

When I discovered my legion was coming to Britain, I wasn't thrilled. I've only got five more years before I retire and didn't fancy conquering another country. It's not that bad I suppose, I just wish it would stop raining...



Witcombe Roman villa in Gloucestershire was extremely luxurious with its own bathhouse. It was built around AD 250



*QUICK QUIZ! How many troops did emperor Claudius bring to invade Britain?
Find the answer on p19...*

AD 43–410
Roman Britain



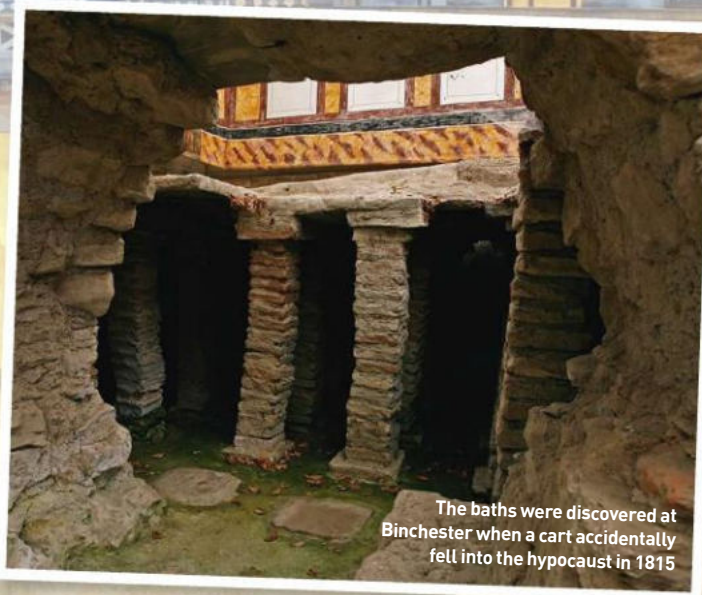
In the Roman empire, pottery was produced in large quantities. Everyday items were quite plain, but more formal occasions pieces would be intricately decorated.



The Romans incorporated other countries' beliefs into their culture, as this gold ring of Medusa from Greek mythology shows

Roman currency

Roman currency consisted of coins made of gold, silver, brass and copper. Up until Julius Caesar, the Romans had put portraits of their ancestors on the coins. However, Caesar decided he was important enough to have his portrait on a coin.



The baths were discovered at Binschester when a cart accidentally fell into the hypocaust in 1815

The hypocaust system

Romans enjoyed the finer things in life, which definitely included a nice warm bathhouse – especially in the north of England

The Romans were extremely inventive and liked to live in comfort. To counteract the British winters, they developed a system of under-floor heating. Pillars were used to raise floors above the ground. Then, hot air and smoke would then be pumped into this space. The rooms would warm up, but without any unpleasant smokiness that could arise from having a fire directly in the room.

Hadrian's wall

It divided England and Scotland, but why did the emperor feel the need for such protection against the north?

The conquest of southern Britain had gone relatively well for Rome. True, there had been major setbacks, such as the Boudican revolt, and the war in Wales had dragged out over two decades, but Rome's well-organised army had eventually swept all before it in a characteristically impressive display of shock and awe.

Things had started to unravel as Rome moved further north. Here, they encountered people with no history of contact with the Mediterranean world and with leaders who saw no real benefit in being Roman. On top of this, the terrain was mountainous and the population was extremely dispersed with no unified control or large settlements to target. Finally, the area had very limited economic potential unlike western Britain, which had reserves of gold, lead and tin. All of these factors ensured that Roman interest in northern England and Scotland was lukewarm at best.

A military campaign against the northern tribes by the governor Julius Agricola in the AD 80s had brought a series of stunning victories for Rome. So swift had the conquest been that Agricola had seriously considered sending troops to Ireland, bringing the whole of the British Isles under Roman dominion. The reality of the 'conquest' soon dawned on the Roman government, however.

Scotland proved to be a huge drain on resources, tying down

soldiers who could be used elsewhere, and spending vast sums of cash in order to build necessary roads and forts from scratch. Troop withdrawals to troubled zones elsewhere in the empire finally necessitated the abandonment of territory in Scotland and the establishment of a frontier between Newcastle and Carlisle.

The Emperor Hadrian fixed the northern limits of Roman Britain in the AD 120s by establishing a permanent barrier in stone known today as Hadrian's wall. This was designed to separate, in the emperor's own words, "Roman from Barbarian", ensuring that lands to the south prospered and developed, while those to the north were forever excluded.

For the next three centuries, the northern frontier remained relatively stable, Rome leading campaigns against the tribes beyond the wall when it suited it. Over time, the continued intervention of the Roman military and the tantalising presence of prosperous lands to the south, eventually led to the formation of two large tribal confederacies in Scotland: the Maeatae and the Caledones, both of whom, by the late fourth century AD, felt powerful enough to challenge the Romans.

I, Emperor Hadrian, order you all to build a big wall that will protect ourselves from those nasty barbarians in the north. In honour of myself, it will be known as Hadrian's wall.



QUICK QUIZ! How many kilometres of roads did the Romans build in Britain?
Find the answer below...

AD 43–410
Roman Britain

➤ by ship out into the North Sea and to the north-western provinces such as Germany and Belgium.

The Roman government was broadly tolerant of all native religions, understanding that persecution of British gods would not only upset the locals but also create unhappiness and rebellion. British gods and goddesses were regularly combined with Roman ones, hence the British goddess of the hot springs at Bath, Sulis, was merged with her Roman equivalent to become Sulis Minerva, a goddess that would appeal to both Roman and Briton alike.

North-south divide

In the north of the province, the army held sway. Timber then, later, stone-built forts controlled the land, connected by a brand new series of military roads. Civilian authority was not encouraged in these areas, towns and villas never being as prominent here as they were in the south. Some settlements, filled with bars, shops and

homes for soldiers' families, eventually grew up outside the more permanent frontier forts, but the bulk of the native population appears to have stayed put on their farms, never fully engaging with Rome.

Throughout its history, Roman Britain remained heavily garrisoned, one-tenth of all Rome's available forces being based there. That's not to say Britain was a drain on Rome's resources – far from it, the grain, metals and tax collected from the population contributed greatly to the empire's annual profits. The enlarged garrison was considered necessary in order to maintain control over the difficult highland region of Britain, protecting the civilian south from the un-Roman north beyond Hadrian's wall.

However, this strong section of the army became increasingly difficult and rebellious. It was a constant source of instability at the margins of the empire, repeatedly setting up its own emperor or breaking away from empire rule altogether.

Eventually, the pressures elsewhere forced the Emperor Honorius in AD 410 to write to the cities of southern Britain, telling them to look to their own defence. For the first time in nearly four centuries, Britain was free from Roman control. Within a generation, it reverted to a nation of competing tribes, the same as before AD 43. **H**



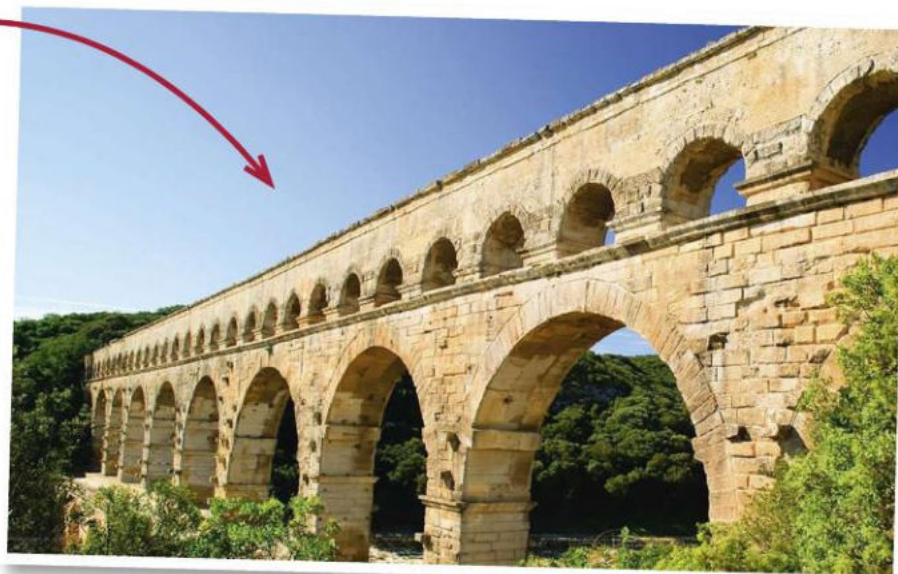
Hadrian presided over an empire that stretched from the British Isles to the Middle East

BBC For more about Roman Britain, visit www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/romans/

*The Roman empire
At its height in AD 117, the
empire stretched from
England and Wales to north
Africa, and had a population
of approximately 88 million.*

Fresh water

The Romans constructed aqueducts all across their empire to ensure a fresh supply of water to towns. Traces of aqueducts have been found in many British cities such as Chester and Exeter, though none as grand as the ones in Italy, Spain or France.



TOP 10 ROMAN GIFTS

- 1 **Roads:** built to help move the military around
- 2 **Counting:** introduced their number system
- 3 **Concrete:** made from volcanic sand and water
- 4 **Large ships:** early Brits only had small boats
- 5 **Public baths:** encouraged cleanliness
- 6 **Pottery wheel:** made it quicker to make pots
- 7 **Arts:** such as mosaics and sculptures
- 8 **Theatre:** the Romans loved to be entertained
- 9 **Games:** such as backgammon and jacks
- 10 **Wine:** they introduced us to a favourite tippie

Quiz answer p17: 40,000 Roman troops invaded Britain in AD 43.
Quiz answer p19: Over 4,000km of roads were built by the Romans during their occupation of Britain.

The Romans
AD 43–410

410–1066

1066–1485

1485–1603

1603–1714

1714–1837

1837–1901

1901–present

THINKSTOCK, ALAMY X2/GETTY/MAPART.CO.UK

Get out of
the house
and make
history come
alive!

Places to visit

The Romans came and they conquered, and their legacy can still be enjoyed across Britain 2,000 years later at these fun days out

"A wall 80 miles long to separate the Romans from the barbarians" – Hadrian's biographer



1 FISHBOURNE ROMAN PALACE AND GARDENS – WEST SUSSEX

The largest Roman palace in Britain is also home to the earliest garden found in the country. Certainly fit for a king, this residence is one that you don't want to miss.

Roman Way, Fishbourne, West Sussex PO19 3QR

☎ 01243 785859

► www.sussexpast.co.uk/fishbourne

£ Family ticket £24.00 (2 adults, up to 4 children)

2 THE ROMAN REMAINS – CAERLEON

Discover 2nd-century Roman Britain with a walk around the fortress, baths, impressive amphitheatre and the finest Roman barrack remains in Europe. Be sure to visit the National Roman Legion Museum too.

High St, Caerleon, Newport NP18 1AE

☎ 0300 111 2333

► www.museumwales.ac.uk/roman

Monday–Saturday 10am–5pm, Sunday 2pm–5pm

£ Admission free

3 HOUSESTEADS FORT AT HADRIAN'S WALL – NORTHUMBERLAND

Explore the former base of 800 Roman soldiers as you wander around this rich archaeological site. Visit the museum for a snapshot of Roman life.

Haydon Bridge, Hexham, Northumberland NE47 6NN

☎ 01434 344363

► www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/housesteads-roman-fort-hadrians-wall

£ Adult ticket £6.60

Child ticket £4.00

4 ROMAN AMPHITHEATRE – CHESTER

Amphitheatres in Roman times were a source of entertainment – think of a football ground, but with more gladiators fighting. Excavated in 2004–2005, Chester is home to the largest stadium in Britain and is filled with Roman history.

Little St John Street, Chester CH1 1RE

☎ 0370 333 1181

► www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/chester-roman-amphitheatre/

£ Admission free, available to view all year round

5 ROMAN BATHS – BATH

As one of the most developed Roman towns in the UK, Bath is home to the best example of a bathing complex, which is believed to have been built on the instructions of Emperor Claudius. The temple itself was built in AD 60–70 and the bathing complex was then developed over the next three centuries. Romans and Britons would come from all over the country to visit this natural hot spring, and thankfully they left a great deal of history behind. The museum contains many Roman objects that were thrown into the spring, presumably as offerings to the goddess. These include 12,000 Roman currency coins. See where the Romans bathed, socialised and even shaved, and even enjoy atmospheric torchlight-led tours in one of the best historical attractions Britain has to offer.

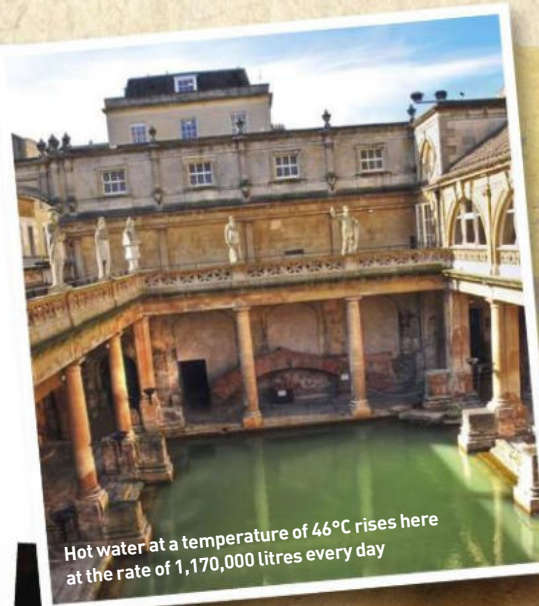
Abbey Church Yard, Bath BA1 1LZ

☎ 01225 477785

► www.romanbaths.co.uk

July–August 9am–9pm, September–October 9am–5pm, November–February 9.30am–5pm

£ Family ticket £44.00 (2 adults, up to 4 children)



Hot water at a temperature of 46°C rises here at the rate of 1,170,000 litres every day

A Sun God carving in stonework at Bath Roman Museum







BETTY

Viking warrior re-enactors set sail for Britain, looking for land to raid as well as to colonise

410–1066

The Invaders

For 600 years, Britain was descended upon by immigrants, marauders and plunderers – all seeking a slice of the green and pleasant land

AT A GLANCE



**The Romans
retreat**

p24



**Anglo-Saxon
invasions**

p25



Alfred the Great

p26



**The rise of
Christianity**

p27



**The story of
the Vikings**

p28



**The Norman
invasion**

p30

THE AGE OF invaders in Britain lasted from the end of Roman rule in 410 to the Norman conquest of England in 1066.

During those centuries, the nations of the British Isles that we know today were formed. Unfortunately, the years were filled with warfare and chaos, meaning that few records have survived. Little is known for certain about these years and historians often disagree over dates, names and events.

What is known is that by the year 400, the Roman empire was collapsing across western Europe. The economy was in decline as the climate became cooler and wetter, which badly affected agricultural output. Health and well-being declined as food became scarcer, and disease became more of a threat.

The government had less money to spend repairing roads, canals and drains.

Powerful army generals fought civil wars over what money was available to the government. In 407, a general in Britain named Constantine declared himself to be Emperor. He led his troops to Europe to invade Italy, but was betrayed by his key supporters and killed.

Fights and famines

Meanwhile, tribes from outside the empire were also suffering poor harvests and poverty. They raided Roman Britain to steal food and wealth.

Raiders from Ireland and north of Hadrian's Wall launched frequent attacks. This fighting only served to worsen conditions in the long run, as more farms were destroyed, reducing the already-depleted harvest even further.

In 410, the Roman Emperor Honorius told the British that he could not help them. He told them to choose new dignitaries to replace those loyal

Vanishing act
The last Roman coins found in Britain were made in 407. These bronze coins were everyday items, and their disappearance marks the retreat of the empire.

Sword in the stone

According to myth, Arthur became the monarch of England after he pulled an enchanted sword from a stone, which only "the true king" could remove. Arthurian legends, such as that of his magical sword Excalibur, continue to fascinate and entertain.



This statue of King Arthur shows him ready for battle in medieval armour

The legend of King Arthur

The mythical figure may well have been based on a real justice-seeking fighter

Medieval folklore tells of a mighty king named Arthur who ruled Britain wisely and well. He lived in Camelot, was married to Guinevere, had a magical adviser named Merlin and trusted knights who gathered at his round table. But historians cannot agree how much truth lies behind the stories.

If King Arthur really existed, he would probably have lived and ruled early in the 500s. Very few records have survived from this era, and even fewer mention Arthur. Those that do are later copies, so the sections on Arthur might have been added once the legends became famous.

These early sources indicate that Arthur was a military leader who commanded British armies against the invading Saxons and Angles. He is said to have fought 12 battles in Scotland, Lincolnshire and other places we cannot now identify. His greatest victory may have been the battle of Badon Hill, probably fought in about 510 in the southwest of Britain. After Badon Hill there was peace for many years. Arthur seems to have been killed in a civil war against other Britons. Later legend says he was killed by Mordred at the Battle of Camlann.

Ultimately though, we cannot be certain where the story ends, and the truth begins.

Timeline

410–757

410
The Romans retreat from Britain entirely

c510
Battle of Badon Hill – possibly one of King Arthur's victories

757
Offa becomes King of Mercia. He takes control of other Anglo-Saxon tribes

407
Constantine III tries and fails to invade Italy

446
The British ask the Romans for help against Barbarian raiders

669
Theodore of Tarsus is named Archbishop of Canterbury. He starts to reform the church

Anglo-Saxons

The Anglo-Saxons ruled for six centuries, but who were they?

The term 'Anglo-Saxon' refers to the peoples who lived in the British Isles between the Roman period and the Norman conquest of 1066.

The Angles were immigrants who came from in and around Angeln, in northern Germany. They settled mostly in the north and east of what is now England. The Saxons came from what is now Saxony. They settled heavily in the south and Midlands. Others also came to Britain, including Jutes (from what is now Denmark) who settled in the southeast. The incomers did not replace the native Britons, but settled among them. In most

areas the immigrants formed a minority of the population.

Although we refer to the people of this time as Anglo-Saxons, they were really a mix of Angles, Saxons, Jutes, Britons and others. Over several generations, these peoples mixed to form a new nation: the English.

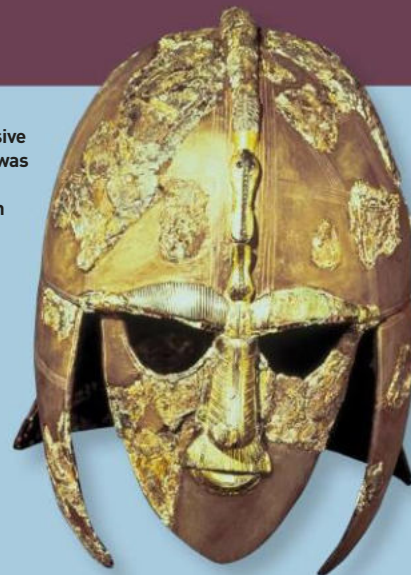
Anglo-Saxon culture, language and religion dominated England. At first, the Anglo-Saxons worshipped a variety of pagan gods. These included Tyr, Woden, Thunor and Frigg, after whom Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday are named. Later, the old gods were abandoned and Christianity took over.

Anglo-Saxon buildings were mostly made of wood, so few have survived. They

could be large and heavily decorated with carvings and paint. After about the year 900, some stone buildings began to be built, and a few churches still stand.

The Anglo-Saxons excelled in arts such as embroidery and especially jewellery. Their works were exported all across Europe. The gold and silver pieces were intricately patterned and embellished with precious stones and enamel.

The Anglo-Saxons divided Britain up into many different kingdoms – each with a leader known as the 'cynning', or king



This impressive iron helmet was found in the Anglo-Saxon burial site at Sutton Hoo

Anglo-Saxon buildings were simple timber and thatch structures



AD 43–410

The Invaders
410–1066

1066–1485

1485–1603

1603–1714

1714–1837

1837–1901

1901–present

➤ to Constantine. The Britons chose their own government officials and raised an army. Some of the mercenaries were from Germany, but still thought of themselves as Roman citizens. As Roman power waned, increasing numbers of Germanic settlers (historians now tend to refer to them as Anglo-Saxons) moved to Britain, as farmers, soldiers and merchants. For a while, the Roman-style government continued and the famous King Arthur may have been a Roman-style official at this time (or he may not have existed at all).

At some point around the year 540, Britain fell into chaos. This may have followed a terrible plague that ravaged Europe. We know that the city of Constantinople, now Istanbul, saw 5,000 people die each day at the height of the plague. It is thought that around 25 per cent of the population of Europe was killed. In

Britain, the high death rate added to the hardship and misery of life.

Archaeology reveals that towns had been abandoned, that villages were smaller and poorer than before and that wealth had also fallen. At this time, nobody could afford mosaics, piped water or heating systems. The great villas turned to ruin and wooden shacks were the best housing on offer. However, there are indications that traces of Roman civilisation survived in some of the towns.

Politics and religion

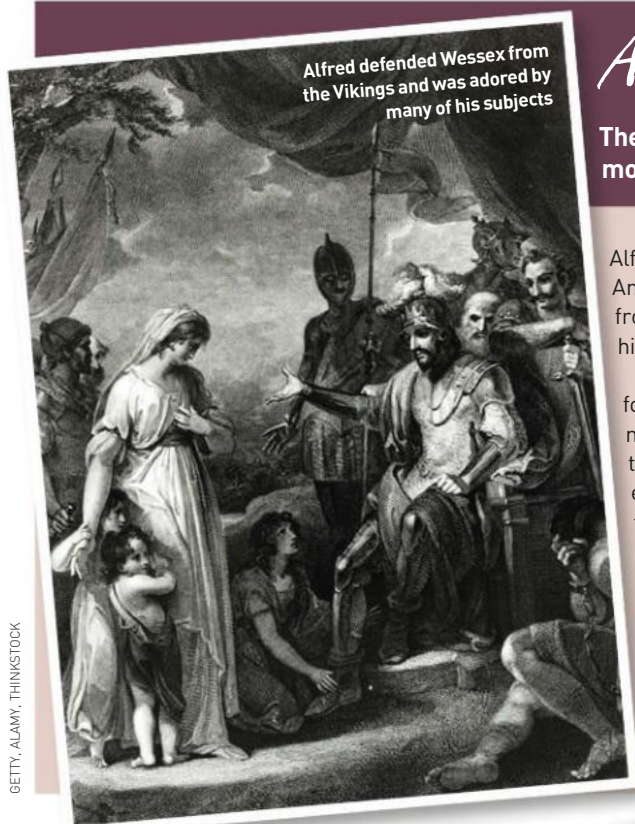
As well as this squalor and poverty, there was complete political chaos. The old system of government vanished as petty rulers tried to grab whatever wealth and

Holy man
Admiration for St David was so strong in Wales, that he became the patron saint of the nation. His shrine stands at St David's Cathedral, in Pembrokeshire.

power they could amid the disruption.

One reaction against these upheavals was a growth in religious fervour – people turned to the church for protection and stability.

Christianity had become firmly rooted in Roman Britain, and it continued to be important for some people even after the Romans retreated. One leader of the movement was St David, who founded a number of monasteries to act as centres of a new Christian community. David expected monks to set an example by abandoning personal possessions, spending their days in physical labour and their evenings in prayer. The pure lifestyle favoured by David involved drinking only water and eating only bread and herbs. The monks gained reputations for holiness that allowed ➤



Alfred defended Wessex from the Vikings and was adored by many of his subjects

Alfred the Great

The only English king to be known as 'the Great', there's a lot more to Alfred than just beating the Vikings...

Alfred the Great was king of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Wessex from 871 to 899. He spent most of his life fighting the Vikings.

Born in 849, Alfred was the fourth son of King Æthelwulf, so nobody expected him to inherit the crown. However, Alfred's elder brothers all died, so at the age of 22 Alfred became king. Alfred had already fought the Vikings, but they attacked again and in 878 Alfred was heavily defeated. He fled to the Isle of Athelney in Somerset. From there he summoned the men of Wessex to join him. Just six

months after his defeat, Alfred smashed the Viking army at the battle of Edington. The Viking leader, Guthrum, became a Christian and left Wessex forever.

In the years of peace that followed, Alfred reformed his kingdom. He built a series of fortified towns, or burhs, and created a new style of army and navy. He also revived education, reformed the church, introduced a new tax system and generally made the running of Wessex more efficient. His daughter, Æthelflæd, married the ruler of Mercia. Together, Wessex and Mercia defeated a renewed Viking assault in 898. Alfred left a peaceful and united kingdom to his son, Edward. Alfred's grandson, Æthelstan, is seen by many historians as the first king of England.

Timeline 793–1066

793
The first Vikings arrive in Britain. They ransack Lindisfarne

794
Vikings target Scotland, attacking the Isle of Iona

795
The Vikings reach Ireland, destroying the Rechru monastery

869
East Anglia falls to Viking raiders

878
King Alfred of Wessex flees to the Somerset Marshes

927
Athelstan's conquest of Northumbria makes him king of all England

892
Alfred earns his reputation, defeating a new Viking invasion

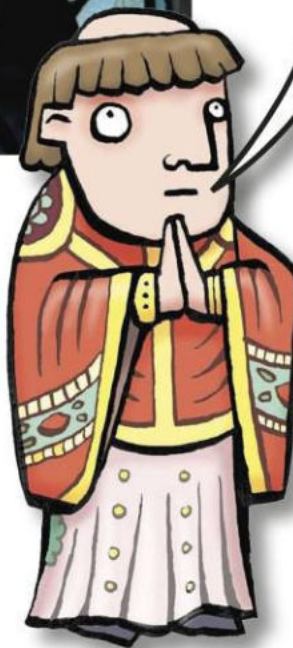
QUICK QUIZ! According to legend, which English king once burnt a batch of a peasant woman's cakes? Find the answer on page 31...

410–1066
The Invaders



St Bede wrote about 40 books, most of which focussed on theology and history

My name is Bede.
I am a monk, and study,
teaching and writing have always
been my delight. Having said that,
I would have loved a photocopier,
so that I didn't have to copy all
those books by hand.
Oh, the aches!



The Venerable Bede

Born in the early 670s, Bede became a monk and lived in the monastery at Jarrow, Northumbria. He was an intelligent man with a passion for learning. He wrote the most significant literature that we know of from Anglo-Saxon times, and built up a huge library of manuscripts, each of which would have been copied by hand.

FAMOUS WORDS – St Bede's most famous book is *The Ecclesiastical History of the English People*. It's a key source of information about early British history and the rise of Christianity.

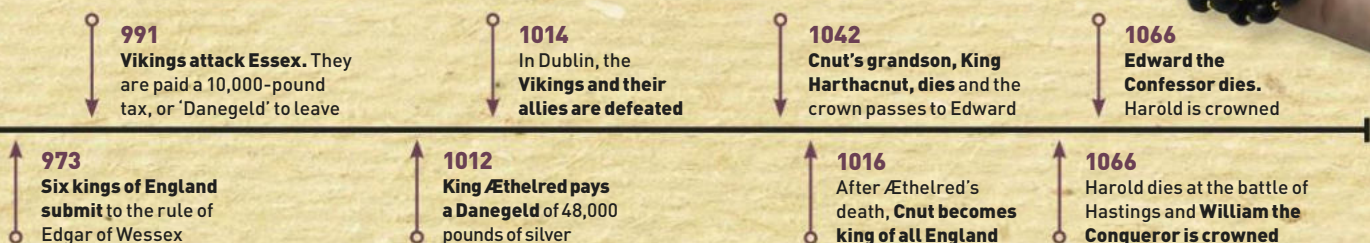
The rise of Christianity

It wasn't always the UK's number one...

Christianity reached Britain in Roman times, but was almost wiped out in the sixth century before being revived to take over the whole of Britain.

The religion is first known in Britain around the year 240. By 350, most of the population of Roman Britain was Christian, and missionaries took the religion to Ireland and Scotland. When the Anglo-Saxons took over what is now England, they replaced Christianity with their own pagan religions.

Missionaries from Ireland had tried to convert the English, but it wasn't until St Augustine arrived from Rome in 597 that things really changed. Armed with authority and resources from the Pope, Augustine quickly converted Kent. He soon found that Irish and Welsh Christianity was slightly different from his own. They had their own rituals and calculated the date of Easter in a different way. The differences were finally sorted out at the synod of Whitby in 664, by which time most people in Britain were Christians.



AD 43–410

The Invaders
410–1066

1066–1485

1485–1603

1603–1714

1714–1837

1901–present

The story of the Vikings

More than just raiders, the Vikings were traders and colonists, too

For more than two hundred years from the 790s, Britain was repeatedly attacked by warriors from Scandinavia: Vikings.

The Norse invaders first attacked the northern islands, conquering the Shetland and Orkney islands in the eighth century. They then headed south to raid the mainlands of Britain and Ireland during the early ninth century. The Vikings also raided in western Europe, reaching the Mediterranean, as well as eastern Europe and into Russia. After the 850s, the Vikings began settling in Ireland in large numbers.

They also occupied coastal areas of Scotland and Wales.

In 865, the three brothers Halfdan Ragnarsson, Ivar the Boneless and Ubbe Ragnarsson, gathered together many of the Vikings into a single army. Over the next nine years this aptly named Great Heathen Army, conquered the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of East Anglia, Northumbria and Mercia. While most of the Vikings became landowners, one large group led by the warrior Guthrum invaded the last free English kingdom: Wessex. They were defeated by Alfred the Great in 878. Viking raids continued, and in 1016 England was conquered by a Viking king named Cnut, or Canute, who ruled for nearly 20 years.

Making a mark

The Vikings were pagans who brought with them a new culture and language. Their influence was strongest in northern and eastern England, where they settled in the largest numbers. Danish law was observed there and the area became known as Danelaw. Many places in the area have Scandinavian names, while Norse words entered the English language.

Further afield

The Vikings were not only raiders and invaders. Many were just looking for land

to farm. They sailed their ships into the North Atlantic, seeking more lands to settle on. In 874, Ingolfur Arnarson became the first Viking to set up home in Iceland. He was followed by hundreds of others, and within a century, they spread further west, to Greenland. Some Vikings travelled even further, to North America, but the colonies didn't flourish there.

Melting pot

By the year 1100, the Vikings' culture had merged with the Anglo-Saxons',

and they had become Christian. The Viking kings imposed a ban on

trading in slaves, which reduced the profits of raiding. At the same time, the kingdoms of Britain had become better able to defeat invading armies. As a result, the Viking Age in Britain came to an end.

QUICK QUIZ! Which Irish city was founded by Vikings? Find the answer on page 31...

Despite popular belief, Vikings did not have horned helmets. They were simple bowls with nose guards



Viking jewellery, like this gold pendant, was intricate and valuable

Viking words

We speak old Norse every day – many common English words have Viking origins

HUSBAND comes from the word 'hús', for house, and 'bóndi', for holder

WINDOW literally means 'wind eye', from the old Norse words 'vindr' and 'auga'

KNIFE is derived from the ancient Norse word of the same meaning, 'knifr'

UGLY comes from the word 'uggligr', which means dreadful or fearful

ANGER is taken straight from the Nordic word for distress or grief, 'angr'

410–1066 *The Invaders*



Evidence of old Norse settlements can still be seen on some of the Orkney Islands



In battle, soldiers up front would draw together in a line, creating a 'shield wall'



I've built a ship,
rowed across the ocean,
fought a battle and looted a
monastery. Row all the way back?
You must be joking! I'm
exhausted. I'm staying here –
that farm over there looks
nice. Don't you try

Pushing the boat out

Vikings were masters of the sea, and their wooden longships were expertly crafted. Terrifying figureheads, like this dragon, were carved into the ships' bows to intimidate their foes



AD 43–410

The Invaders
410–1066

1066–1485

1485–1603

1603–1714

1714–1837

1837–1901

1901–present

ALAMY/2, CORBIS, GETTY, DREAMTIME, JORVIK VIKING CENTRE

With William as king,
French became the
leading language,
giving us words like
beef, knight and duke.

Warwick Castle is one of
many fortresses built
during William I's rule



The Norman invasion

William the Conqueror's invasion in 1066 was a turning point in British history, marking the start of period of Norman rule

In 1066, England was taken over by a new class of foreign rulers – the Normans. They imposed a new culture and later spread out to Wales, Ireland and Scotland.

King Edward the Confessor of England died childless in January 1066. There was no obvious heir, but four men claimed the crown. Edgar Atheling was Edward's nephew, but he was only 14 years old. Earl Harold Godwinson of Wessex was Edward's brother-in-law and was related to an earlier king, Canute. King Harald Hardrada of Norway claimed the previous king, Harthacanute, had left England to him. Duke William of Normandy was

Edward's cousin and said that Edward had promised him the crown. The English nobles chose Harold Godwinson.

Hostile takeover

In September 1066, Harald Hardrada landed in the Humber and defeated the local English army. Harold Godwinson marched north with his own army. On 25 September, he defeated and killed Harald at Stamford Bridge, near York.

Meanwhile, William of Normandy had also invaded, landing at Pevensey on 28 September. As soon as he heard the news, Harold marched his army back south. Gathering new forces on the way, Harold arrived at Senlac Hill north of Hastings to block William's route to London.

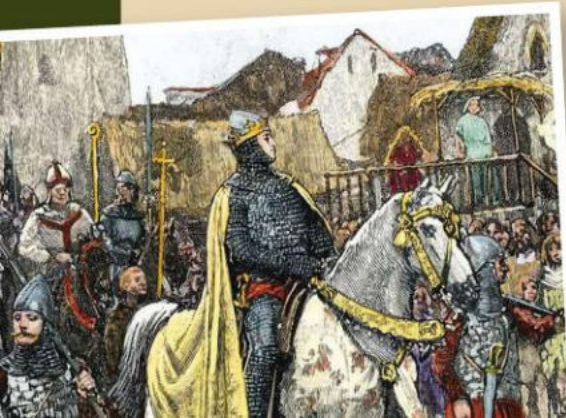
On 14 October, William attacked Harold. The battle of Hastings lasted all day. After nine hours, Harold was killed and his army

fled. Some nobles tried to make Edgar king, but they soon realised that William's army was too strong to beat. He was crowned king on Christmas Day.

Over the next 20 years, William reorganised the government of England. Nearly all the English nobles and landowners, and senior officials in the Church and government, were replaced by Normans. Norman-French became the language used by the upper classes.

Castles manned by Norman soldiers were built across England to stop any rebellions. Risings by men such as Edric the Wild and Hereward the Wake were mercilessly put down. In 1086, William ordered officials to compile what became known as the Domesday Book. This listed all the landowners in England who owed tax to the king. When William died in 1087, England was fully under Norman rule. Norman nobles later spearheaded the English conquest of Wales and Ireland, while Norman culture affected Scotland.

After victory at Hastings, William and his army march into London

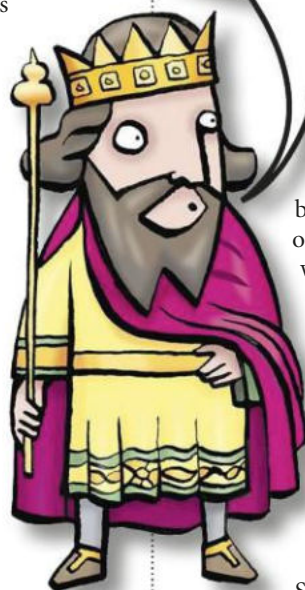


➤ them to resist the demands of rulers, and to offer some protection to farmers and others who had been oppressed by heavy taxes or unjust laws.

The network of monasteries spread across Wales, Cornwall and Ireland. They offered beacons of hope and refuge for the population. In England, however, Christianity suffered a reverse at the hands of the incoming Anglo-Saxon rulers. They came from outside of the former Roman lands and followed pagan religions. The Germanic mercenaries who had arrived over the previous decades now grabbed power to set up their own kingdoms.

The simple life

The new Anglo-Saxon lands operated on a system that was less sophisticated than the Romans' had been. There were fewer taxes, but they also provided little in the way of roads, water supplies or other services. They developed a new model of government more suited to the new world of a lower population and less wealth. They did not spread across all



Je suis William the Conqueror, from Normandy. Ah, if only my cousin Edward had told his fellow Englishmen about that little chat we had, then that nasty battle at Hastings could have been avoided. C'est la vie...

of Britain, though, and now historians tend to differentiate between the Anglo-Saxons in England, and the British to the north and west of them.

By around 590, what had been Roman Britain had become divided into a number of small states. Some of these were Anglo-Saxon kingdoms in what we now call England, such as Kent, Mercia and Northumbria. Others were British principalities such as Powys, Gwynedd and Dalriada. Written records from these kingdoms became more numerous after about the year 600.

By the year 700, the Anglo-Saxons had completed the conquest of what is now

England, forcing the British rulers to retreat into Wales and Cornwall. Also during this period, Christianity began to be re-established as a religion across England, due to the efforts of missionaries from Rome, and from the surviving Christian British population.

Sometime around 750, the climate warmed up, improving crops and allowing the population to grow and to become wealthier. The isles had become a desirable target once more and at the end of the eighth century, Britain was invaded again. Several waves of Viking warriors from Scandinavia attacked Britain. Some came for loot, then left again, others came to acquire farming land or to take over as rulers. Viking settlement was heaviest in the northern isles, Ireland, and in northeastern England, but all areas were affected.

Nations are born

In the 850s, Kenneth MacAlpin united the people in northern Britain into a single kingdom, forming the origins of modern Scotland. In around 1050, the Scottish conquered Strathclyde, acquiring more-or-less its modern boundaries. Ireland remained divided, with a number of small states, though all the rulers owed a vague loyalty to the High King of Ireland.

The final invasion of this age came in 1066, when England was conquered by the Normans. By this time, the British nations that we know had been formed and the boundaries between them established. **II**

BBC For more about Anglo-Saxon Britain, visit www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/anglo_saxons

The Bayeux Tapestry

This hand-embroidered scene tells the epic story of William's victory, from an ageing Edward the Confessor, seen here, to the battle of Hastings. The last section of the tapestry is missing, but it probably shows William's coronation.



TOP 10 HISTORICAL FINDS

- 1 **Anglo-Saxon burial chamber** Suffolk
- 2 **Evidence of an Iron-Age town** Reading
- 3 **Viking treasure chest** Lancashire
- 4 **Anglo-Saxon skeletons** Anglesey
- 5 **Coins from the Viking capital** York
- 6 **Huge haul of Viking jewels** Yorkshire
- 7 **Anglo-Saxon war helmet** Coppergate
- 8 **Skeleton of a Saxon king** Lincoln Castle
- 9 **Remains of a monastery** Lindisfarne
- 10 **Viking burial** Ardnamurchan, Highland

Quiz answer p27: Dublin – the city became a maritime staging post to dock and repair ships, as well as a slave-trade centre. **Quiz answer p28:** Alfred the Great – in the Somerset marshes, the king sought shelter with a peasant woman. She asked the king to watch the cakes, but apparently baking wasn't one of Alfred's strengths!

Get out of
the house
and make
history come
alive!

Places to visit

From pillaging Vikings and a monastic pilgrimage to the gore and glory of the battle of Hastings. There's plenty of places for you to invade...



The raid on Lindisfarne in AD 793 is seen as the start of the Viking Age

1 LINDISFARNE PRIORY – NORTHUMBERLAND

The first port of call when the Vikings attacked Britain, Lindisfarne is steeped in history and housed many frightened monks during the attacks. Take in the coastal views and see the stunning ruins and carvings.

Holy Island, Berwick Upon Tweed, Northumberland TD15 2RX

☎ 01289 389200

► www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/lindisfarne-priory

Open daily, 25 March–30 September 10am–6pm

£ Adult ticket £5.60

Child ticket £3.30

2 BATTLE OF HASTINGS ABBEY AND BATTLEFIELD – EAST SUSSEX

Discover the battle site of King Harold and William the Conqueror. Atmospheric abbey ruins and an interactive museum bring that momentous day to life.

High Street, Battle, East Sussex TN33 0AD

☎ 01424 775705

► www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/1066-battle-of-hastings-abbey-and-battlefield

Open daily, 25 March–30 September 10am–6pm

£ Family ticket £21.60 (2 adults, up to 3 children)

3 KIDWELLY CASTLE – CARMARTHENSHIRE

The Norman castle in this ancient village has been so well preserved and was built with such skill that it still stands today. Climb the towers, enjoy the beautiful setting and get an idea of how the Normans lived. You can also explore the recently discovered underground passage.

Kidwelly, Carmarthenshire SA17 5BQ

☎ 01554 890104

► www.cadw.wales.gov.uk/daysout/kidwellycastle

Open daily 9.30am–5pm (1 July–31 August until 6pm)

£ Family ticket £10.80*

5 SUTTON HOO BURIAL SITE – SUFFOLK

Soak up the atmosphere of Britain's most important Anglo-Saxon burial site, dubbed England's Valley of the Kings, where the remains of 7th-century King Raedwald of East Anglia were discovered within the ghostly imprint of a 90ft wooden ship. Find out how the grave yielded phenomenal treasures, making it the richest burial ever found in northern Europe. Many of the artefacts are now held at the British Museum, but the exhibition hall helps bring the site to life and includes a replica burial chamber. You can also learn about other discoveries from inside the mounds, including that of a young warrior, complete with his horse and weapons. Now a National Trust site, there are guided tours available to help you get the most from your visit.

Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 3DJ

☎ 01394 389714

► www.nationaltrust.org.uk/sutton-hoo

Open daily 10am–6pm

£ Family ticket £20.50*

4 KING ALFRED'S STATUE – WINCHESTER

Marking the millennium of Alfred's death, the magnificent bronze statue, designed by the wonderfully-named Hamo Thornycroft, was constructed in 1901 and stands tall in the historical town of Winchester.

The Winchester Guildhall, High St, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 9GH

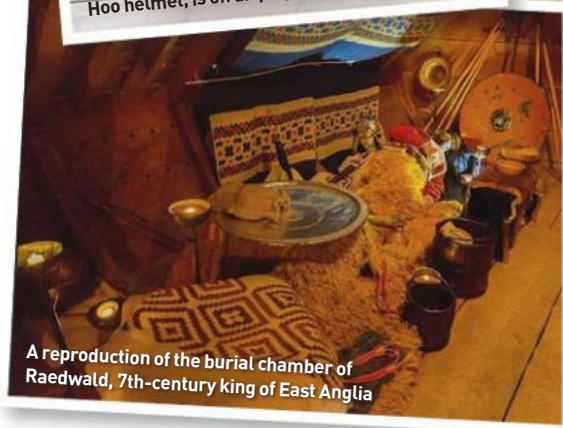
☎ 01962 840500

► www.visitwinchester.co.uk/site/tourist-information

£ Admission free



This sculpture, inspired by the famous Sutton Hoo helmet, is on display at the burial site



A reproduction of the burial chamber of Raedwald, 7th-century king of East Anglia



People of the ages

This nation's kings, queens and notable figures reveal the story of the island kingdom...

849–899

▼ Alfred the Great

The Anglo-Saxon king of Wessex stands firm against Viking raiders and provides the platform for his grandson Athelstan to become 'King of the English'.



c1028–1087

▲ King William I The Conqueror from Normandy.



c1142–1214

▲ William the Lion of Scotland Reigns as King of the Scots from 1165–1214. Invades northern England in 1173–74.

1157–1199

King Richard I the Lionheart

A militarily-minded monarch, Richard I spends much of his reign on crusade.



1367–1400

▲ King Richard II

At the age of 10, Richard becomes King of England after his grandfather Edward's death.

c1343–1400

Geoffrey Chaucer Best known for penning *The Canterbury Tales*, Chaucer is widely considered the greatest English poet of the Middle Ages.

0–1000

1000–1200

1200–1400

Died c60 AD

▼ Boudica

The Queen of the British Iceni tribe leads a (nearly successful) revolution against the occupying Roman forces.

1167–1216

▼ King John I

Angered his barons and lost lands in France.



Died c873

Ivar the Boneless

Viking leader and berserker who invades East Anglia as part of the Great Heathen Army.

c1172–1240

Llywelyn the Great

Prince of Gwynedd in Wales and focus of Welsh resistance against the English.

1274–1329

Robert the Bruce

The King of the Scots fights for Scotland's independence from England.

c1350–1416

Owain Glyndŵr

The last Welshman to claim the title of Prince of Wales, he leads a revolt against English rule, but is eventually unsuccessful.

1491–1547

King Henry VIII

Arguably the most famous of monarchs, Henry VIII takes the throne and so begins the English Reformation – and many marriages.

c1554–1618

Sir Walter Raleigh

A man of many talents, the writer, poet, soldier, spy and explorer is blamed for popularising tobacco use in Britain.

1570–1606

◀ Guy Fawkes

After being caught guarding the explosives during the gunpowder plot of 1605, Fawkes is hung and quartered for treason. This eventually brings about the burning of a 'guy' on Guy Fawkes night in Britain.

c1270–1305

William Wallace

The 'Braveheart' warrior leads the Scottish resistance against Edward I of England.





c1494–1536

▲ **William Tyndale**

Translates the New Testament into English for the first time. Seen as an act of heresy at the time, he is executed for the crime.

1564–1616

William Shakespeare
Considered the greatest writer that Britain has ever produced, he writes 47 major plays or poems.

1533–1603

Queen Elizabeth I
The last monarch of the Tudors, her reign lasts for 44 years. Defeats the Spanish Armada.

1400–1600

1599–1658

Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell
Establishes a republic, the Commonwealth of England.

1633–1703

Samuel Pepys
A naval administrator and member of parliament, Pepys keeps diaries between 1660–69 that tell us much about the Great Plague and Great Fire of London.

1642–1727

▼ **Sir Isaac Newton**

Sir Isaac creates the theory of gravity, the laws of motion and shapes our knowledge of science.

1600–1649

▼ **King Charles I**

Beheaded outside London's Banqueting House after his defeat in the Civil Wars.



1676–1745

Sir Robert Walpole

Considered the first prime minister of Great Britain, Walpole resigned after facing accusations of corruption.

1600–1800

1769–1852

The Duke of Wellington
Defeats Napoleon at the battle of Waterloo and twice becomes prime minister.

1775–1847

Daniel O'Connell

Known as 'The Liberator', this lawyer becomes a great Irish nationalist leader.

1819–1901

Queen Victoria

Victoria reigns for an unrivalled 63 years and seven months.

1847–1922

▼ **Alexander Graham Bell**

Credited with inventing the telephone.



1894–1972

King Edward VIII

Abdicates after less than 12 months to marry American divorcee, Wallis Simpson.

1895–1952

King George VI

The wartime king is famed for his speech trouble.

1800–2016

1926–present

▲ **Queen Elizabeth II**

Takes over from her father. Her reign continues to be successful.

1863–1945

David Lloyd George
Prime minister from 1916–1922, Lloyd George leads the country through the final years of the First World War.

1874–1965

▼ **Sir Winston Churchill**

The charismatic Churchill leads Britain to victory in the Second World War.



The restored
Arundel Castle
offers a glimpse
into Norman times



1066–1485

Medieval Britain

Knights in shining armour
battled it out for king and
country – as long as the Black
Death didn't kill them first

AT A GLANCE



**The murder of
Thomas Becket**

p42



**Scottish
independence**

p43



**Welsh hero
Owain Glyndwr**

p44



Magna Carta

p45



The Black Death

p46



Wars of the Roses p48

1066–1485

Medieval Britain

THE MIDDLE AGES in Britain saw important changes in society, technology and culture as the fragmented world of the Age of Invasions moved towards a more united modern world.

The Norman conquest of 1066 brought to Britain a number of important changes. These were introduced over a number of years and had a profound impact on how people led their lives. These changes would dominate the Middle Ages in Britain.

The Normans organised their government and society according to the feudal system, which was widespread across Europe. This was a system of interlocking obligations that involved military, economic and social duties. The basic form of economic activity was farming, so most wealth came from land. Under feudalism all land belonged to the king. The king granted

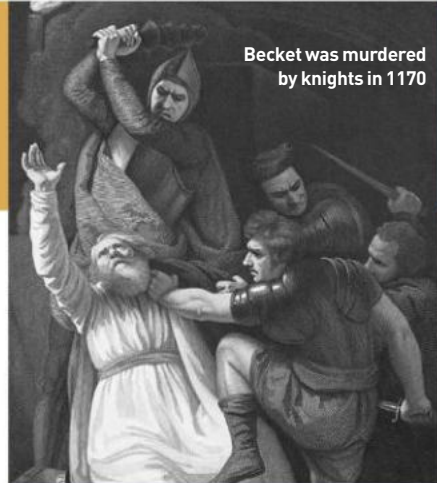
estates of land to men who would perform services for him. Those men would then grant smaller estates to other men in return for services.

There was a clear distinction between men who performed military services (noblemen and knights) and those who performed manual services (farmers and shepherds).

Country living
In the Middle Ages, much of the population lived in the countryside in cottages that would usually consist of just one or two rooms.

Knightly service

Generally a knight was expected to serve for 40 days each year. He had to provide his own horses, weapons and food. If the king wanted the knight to serve for longer he would pay a cash sum. Often knights were instructed to bring a set number of archers, infantry or mounted scouts as well as themselves. Nobles might be expected to bring small armies to serve the king. In theory this gave the king the military might to protect his kingdom, but the fact that nobles had the ability to raise armies



Becket was murdered by knights in 1170

Thomas Becket

This archbishop learnt the hard way that crossing a king is rarely a good idea

The murder of Thomas Becket, archbishop of Canterbury, in 1170 shocked Europe. King Henry II of England was forced to give the church more powers, which it kept until the Reformation under the Tudors in the 16th century.

Thomas Becket was born in 1118, the son of a London merchant. He was intelligent and worked hard so, in 1155, King Henry II made him Chancellor. The two men became great friends.

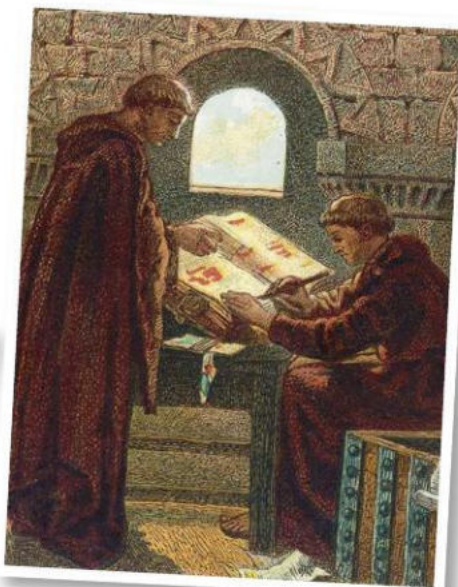
In 1162, with the archbishop of Canterbury dead, Henry nominated Becket to take over, hoping his friend would support him in disputes he had with the church. When Henry and the nobles tried to restrict the powers of the church with the Constitutions of Clarendon in 1164, Becket declared them invalid. Henry and Becket ended up arguing constantly.

In December 1170, Henry is alleged to have lost his temper over dinner and shouted "Will nobody rid me of this turbulent priest?" Four knights supposedly heard him, rode to Canterbury and murdered Becket in the cathedral on 29 December 1170.

Becket was declared a saint for the way he had defended the powers of the church. Henry was blamed for the murder. To earn forgiveness, he agreed to most things that Becket had wanted. As a result, the church increased its power.

Domesday Book

During Christmas 1085, William I sent men all over England to find out who owned what, how much it was worth, and therefore what taxes were owed to the king. All the findings were recorded in the Domesday Book.



Timeline 1066–1282

1066
The University of Oxford is founded

1085
Richard I is king of the Angevin empire

1096
Edward I conquers Wales in the War of Conquest

1154
Work begins on the Tower of London

1170
Henry II is crowned king – he also rules half of France

1216
Henry III becomes king of England aged nine



This statue at the Bannockburn Heritage Centre celebrates King Robert's fight for Scottish independence

Scottish independence

Edward, John, Robert, William, Robert's grandson Robert, Edward's son Edward, and his son Edward all battled it out to be king of Scotland

In 1290 Queen Margaret of Scotland died without leaving an heir. Fearing civil war, the Scottish nobles asked King Edward I of England to choose which of the claimants should be king of Scotland. Edward chose John Balliol over Robert Bruce, but only after Balliol had sworn to recognise Edward as Lord Paramount. When Edward began giving orders to Balliol, the new king of Scotland raised an army. Edward invaded and defeated Balliol at the battle of Dunbar. Edward now declared that he was the new ruler of Scotland.

Defying the crown

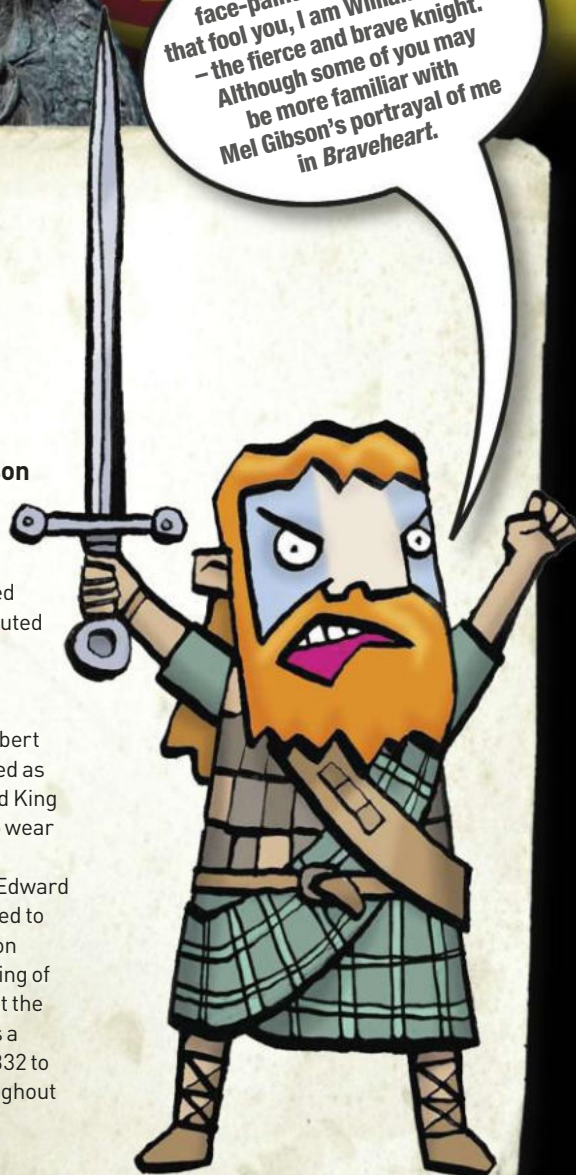
In 1297, a series of rebellions against English rule broke out. These came to be led by a knight named William Wallace who defeated the English at Stirling Bridge on 11 September in 1297. The next year Edward

returned to Scotland and beat Wallace at Falkirk. Fighting continued until Wallace was captured and executed in 1305.

A new generation

In 1306, a new rising began led by Robert Bruce, grandson of the Bruce rejected as king by Edward I. Bruce was crowned King of Scotland and began a campaign to wear down the English forces. In 1314 at Bannockburn, Bruce defeated King Edward II of England. In 1328 Edward III agreed to the Treaty of Edinburgh-Northampton which recognised Robert Bruce as king of an independent Scotland. This wasn't the end of the story though, as there was a second war of independence from 1332 to 1357, and intermittent warfare throughout the later Middle Ages.

I might have face-paint on, but don't let that fool you, I am William Wallace – the fierce and brave knight. Although some of you may be more familiar with Mel Gibson's portrayal of me in *Braveheart*.



AD 43 – 410

410 – 1066

Medieval Britain

1066 – 1485

1485 – 1603

1603 – 1714

1714 – 1837

1837 – 1901

1901 – present

➤ meant it was easy to start civil wars and resulted in instability.

Farmers were granted their own land near their village, and in return they had to work on the lord's land for a set number of days per year. Free men and women could choose which lord to serve and could move from one village to another. The lowest class, serfs, were not able to do this. They were tied to their home village. Serfs were not able to move, marry or give their land to a child without the permission of their lord. In the early Middle Ages there were many slaves in England, up to 10 per cent of the population. The number of slaves declined sharply after 1100 as the church led a campaign to have slaves made into serfs.

The rise of industry

Not everyone earned their living from the land of course: people such as blacksmiths,

merchants and mercenaries tended to operate outside this service culture. In the early part of the period, very few people worked in these industries, but by the end of the Middle Ages it was much more common and they became quite wealthy. By the late 15th century a few merchants were as rich as the wealthiest noblemen.

In 1067 towns were small and relatively unimportant. Gradually the towns grew in size and number. Charters given to a town by the king would give the town important rights in return for cash payments to the crown. The wool trade grew to be very important, bringing much wealth into England by the 15th century. Other trades, such as tin mining and iron smelting also

*Knights in
shining armour*
Knights had specialised armour
for jousting that could weigh up
to 50kg. Regular combat armour
was much lighter and easier to
move in, but even that could
weigh 20kg.

grew in importance during this period.

Throughout the Middle Ages manufacturing and trading increased in importance.

More and more people left working on the land to live in towns and earn a living making things. This process increased after the Black Death when feudalism began to break down and Britain adopted an economy based on money instead of one based on service. Because the church owned large estates, bishops and abbots were often treated as nobles. They did not perform military duties, but hired other men to do it for ➤

Owain Glyndŵr

**The man responsible for driving the English out of Wales
– and then letting them back in again**

By the late 12th century, much of south Wales was under Anglo-Norman control, while north Wales was divided among several Welsh princes. One of their number, Llewellyn ap Gruffudd, achieved superiority among the Welsh princes in the mid-13th century, but in 1277, England's Edward I attacked him, after a perceived slight. The English military was overwhelming and within a couple of years, Wales was under English control.

In 1400, Welsh nobleman Owain Glyndŵr lost a legal dispute with English nobleman Baron Grey de Ruthyn. It turned violent and, on 16 September, Glyndŵr's supporters declared him to be prince of Wales, since he was descended from the old royal family of Powys. In June 1401,

Glyndŵr defeated an English army at the battle of Hyddgen and, by 1404, had largely driven the English out of Wales.

Back under English control

In 1407, Prince Henry (later King Henry V) began the reconquest of Wales. He used the English navy to stop French ships bringing guns and other weapons to Glyndŵr. He then adopted a slow strategy – he took one town or castle at a time, clearing the surrounding land of men loyal to Glyndŵr before moving on to the next.

In 1412, Glyndŵr led a successful ambush of an English force at Brecon. After this, he vanished into the hills and was never seen again.



Owain Glyndŵr was the last native Welshman to claim the title prince of Wales

Timeline 1306–1485

1346
Edward III invades
France and defeats
Philip VI

1356
Edward the 'Black
Prince' captures the
king of France

1381
The Peasants'
Revolt is eventually
defused by Richard II

1306
Robert the Bruce leads
Scottish rebellion and
is crowned king

1348
The Black Death
reaches England

1377
Edward III dies and
is succeeded by
Richard II



Bonjour!
I am a fearless warrior who wants to conquer the world. Although I am the king of England, I am rarely there. You can find me in my chateau in France or fighting my biggest foe, Saladin.

Richard the Lionheart

Richard I was known as the Lionheart because he was such a fearless warrior. He spent most of his time in France, ruling the Angevin empire, and was one of the commanders of the Third Crusade (1189–92). Their aim was to reclaim the holy land from the Muslim warrior, Saladin.



The Third Crusade won many victories but failed to recover Jerusalem. On Richard I's return to England he was captured and handed over to Emperor Henry IV who demanded a large ransom.



CAUGHT RED-HANDED – refers to poachers in Scotland in the 15th century. They would have blood on their hands, which would be proof of their crime.



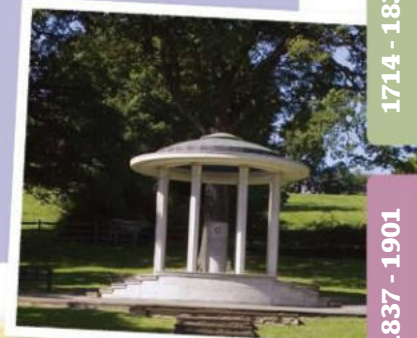
There are only four surviving copies of the 1215 Magna Carta

Magna Carta

This ancient document meant even kings had to obey the law, or face the consequences

In 1199, John became king of England. He proved to be a hard working king, good administrator and successful general. However, he was also cruel, unreliable and vindictive towards those who disagreed with him. In 1215, many barons, merchants and churchmen raised an army to oppose John's behaviour and high taxes. They forced John to agree to a Great Charter (Magna Carta in Latin), which John sealed at Runnymede, in Surrey, on 19 June. Magna Carta repeated several older laws that John had been ignoring. These included *habeas corpus*, that nobody could be put in prison without a fair trial, and legal protection for widows and heiresses.

The most important new rule in Magna Carta was that even the king had to obey the law. Each subsequent ruler agreed to Magna Carta, or to a similar document, for generations. Most of the clauses in Magna Carta were repealed during the 19th and 20th centuries. Only three clauses remain in force – including *habeas corpus*.



1387
Chaucer begins *The Canterbury Tales*

1396
Richard II marries Princess Isabella of France, who is six

1400
Owain Glyndŵr starts a rebellion against England

1453
Bordeaux falls to the French ending the Hundred Years' War

1460
Richard of York is defeated and killed at the battle of Wakefield

1476
William Caxton sets up a printing press at Westminster

1483
Edward IV is succeeded by Edward V who is deposed by Richard III

1485
Battle of Bosworth
Henry Tudor defeats Richard III

The Black Death



It came from the continent, killed many people, and helped bring about big changes in society

In 1346 rumours reached Europe of a terrible disease that was killing large numbers of people in Asia. The disease became known as the Black Death and killed many people right across Europe, Asia and Africa.

Spreading through Europe

In 1347 the disease reached Caffa in the Crimea, from there it spread to Sicily by ship. By the end of the year it had reached Italy, Spain and France, arriving in England in June 1348 and reaching Scotland and Ireland by 1350. People at the time did not understand how the disease spread, so they could not take effective measures to stop the contagion.

We now know the disease was caused by the bacteria *Yersinia pestis*, which is usually spread by bites from infected rat fleas, but which can be spread by coughing up blood.

The symptoms of the plague began with pus-filled growths or buboes in the groin, neck and armpits. The buboes were followed by a high fever and a rash that looked like dark freckles. The patient then began vomiting, often bringing up blood. Fingers and toes would often turn black and fall off.

A speedy death

The plague could be spread by people coughing up blood, flecks of which landed on others. Death could come so quickly that a person might collapse and die without suffering any of the usual symptoms. A high percentage of people who caught the disease died, usually within seven days, though some died within a few hours. When the

Black Death got to London, Robert of Avesbury, a London clerk, remarked: "Those marked for death were scarce permitted to live longer than three or four days. It showed favour to no-one, except a very few of the wealthy. On the same day 20, 40 or 60 bodies, and on occasions many more, might be committed for burial together."

By 1351 the first attack of the plague was over. However, the disease returned several times. These returns stopped the population of Europe from growing as fast as it otherwise would have done. Not until the plague vanished in the 17th-18th century did the population of

Europe recover to the level that it had been in 1346.

The impact on society

The massive death toll had profound effects on society. In the short term there was an outbreak of religious fervour. People thought the plague was sent by God to punish humans for their sins. In Europe (they were not known in Britain), groups of people called flagellants travelled around whipping themselves and others in order to express repentance for sins. In the longer term the fall in population led to the gradual collapse of feudalism. A social and economic system that had been based on service and obligations changed to one that was far more based on mutual agreements and cash payments.



The spread of the Black Death

The Black Death is thought to have started in Asia and travelled along the silk road to the Crimea. From there it was carried to Europe by the fleas on black rats that lived on board merchant ships.



Initially, bodies were buried neatly in graves, but as the epidemic spread out of control, corpses were thrown haphazardly into mass graves



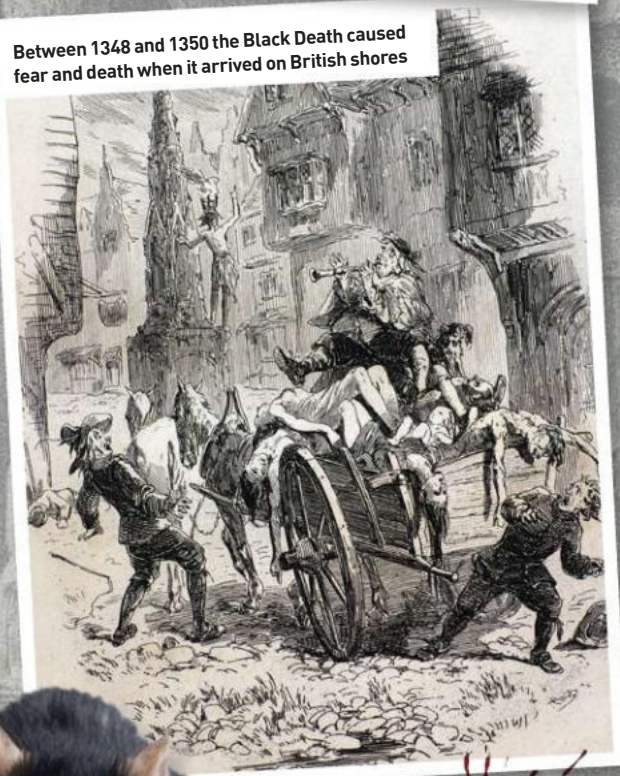
The Black Death swept through London, indiscriminate of who it infected

Flagellants

In Europe, these religious fanatics believed the plague was a punishment from God. By whipping themselves they hoped to appease God and so be spared.



Between 1348 and 1350 the Black Death caused fear and death when it arrived on British shores



AD 43–410

410–1066

Medieval Britain
1066–1485

1485–1603

1603–1714

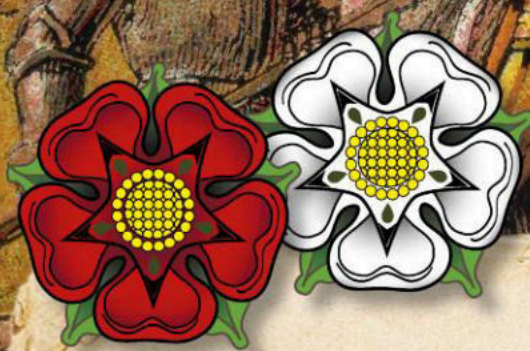
1714–1837

1837–1901

1901–present

THINKSTOCK X4, CORBIS, GETTY, ALAMY X5, DREAMSTIME

The Wars of the Roses involved enormous loss of life. Over 20,000 soldiers died at the battle of Towton alone



Wars of the Roses

This famous conflict raged for 30 years and resulted in Henry Tudor taking the crown and marrying Edward IV's daughter

England and Wales were torn apart by a civil war that lasted over 40 years, from 1455 to 1497. Thousands died, trade was disrupted and the crown changed hands several times.

King Henry VI was a weak and ineffectual ruler. He allowed his wife, Margaret of Anjou, and his friends to help themselves to government money and to give well paid jobs to themselves. Discontent grew, led by the Duke of York. In 1455, York raised an army, captured the king and then made himself head of government.

Yorkists v Lancastrians

Supporters of the Duke of York became known as Yorkists and used a white rose as their badge. Those supporting Henry and Margaret were named Lancastrians because Henry's grandfather had been the Duke of Lancaster. The Lancastrians used a number of badges, one of which was a red rose. Later historians dubbed the wars that followed the "Wars of the Roses".

In 1460, the Lancastrians killed York at the battle of Wakefield. York's son, Edward Earl of March, now declared himself to be King Edward IV. He crushed the Lancastrians at the battle of Towton. This was the largest battle ever fought on English soil with about 80,000 men involved, of whom 20,000 were killed.

King Edward

Edward IV ruled England well, but he fell out with both the Earl of Warwick and his own younger brother, George Duke of Clarence. In 1470, Warwick and Clarence organised a rebellion that put Henry VI back on the throne. Edward returned the following year. Warwick was killed in battle, while Clarence and Henry died in prison soon afterwards.

Edward was now secure on the throne and ruled until his death in 1483. Edward left the crown to his eldest son, Edward V. But within a few months, Edward IV's brother Richard of Gloucester took the throne as Richard III. Richard sent young

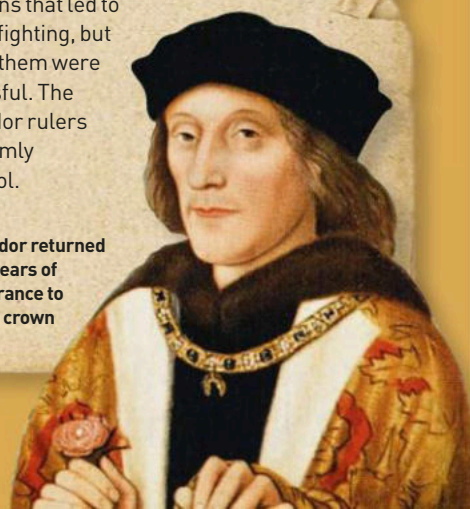
Edward V and his brother to live in the Tower of London. The boys later vanished and their fate remains a mystery.

Two years after Richard took the throne, Lancastrian nobleman Henry Tudor hired mercenaries, landed in Wales and summoned all those opposed to Richard to join his army. On 22 August 1485, Henry Tudor defeated and killed Richard at the battle of Bosworth. Henry became King Henry VII and founded the Tudor dynasty.

The fighting did not end with Bosworth. The Yorkists tried to organise several rebellions that led to further fighting, but none of them were successful. The new Tudor rulers were firmly in control.

Henry Tudor returned from 14 years of exile in France to claim the crown

The body of Richard III was recently discovered beneath a car park in Leicester. He was buried with his hands tied.



QUICK QUIZ: Which queen of England never set foot in the country during her reign? Find answer below...

1066–1485
Medieval Britain

➤ them. The church had its own system of law and justice, its own taxes and its own parliaments. Clergymen could not be tried by royal courts, but only by church courts. Many church lands were exempt from royal taxation. So although the earlier medieval church was highly-regulated, the rules were set by itself rather than by the king. This meant that the church could concentrate on its tasks of worshipping God, helping the poor and educating children without worrying about the need to keep a king happy (though kings allowed this state of affairs to exist).

In the early Middle Ages the church was highly respected and most people supported church independence. In the later Middle Ages the church became disunited and several scandals undermined

respect for it. So as the period progressed, its independence was eroded: from the 13th century onwards, for example, the church was drawn into making grants of taxation to the king on a regular basis.

Joan of Arc
A French peasant who claimed to have divine guidance, Joan led the French to several important victories during the Hundred Years' War. She was burnt at the stake at the age of 19.

Throughout the Middle Ages, England was the largest state in Britain. In fact, under Henry II in the 12th century, England was part of the Angevin empire, which stretched from Britain through France and right down to the Pyrenees. The English kings were richer and more powerful than any other rulers. Slowly they sought to increase their power over the rest of the British Isles. By the end of the Middle Ages, Wales was being ruled from England (after the conquest of Edward I), as were some areas of Ireland, while Scotland remained independent.

The Angevin empire

Henry II became king of England at 21, but he was already an experienced leader having been Duke of Normandy since he was 17.

During his lifetime, he ruled the Angevin Empire, which was then passed on to his son Richard I and then younger son John.



England also fought a series of wars against France. Their possessions in France led to frequent disputes and small scale wars as the English kings squabbled with French kings over ownership of Normandy, Anjou, Aquitaine and other valuable provinces. King John was notably unsuccessful in his dealings in France, losing much of the land he had inherited on the continent, and eventually angering his nobles so much that they invited Prince Louis of France to become king of England (John's death in 1216 prevented that from happening).

Hundred Years' War

In 1328 King Charles IV of France died without children. French law said the crown could go only to a man. The French nobles claimed this meant the new king should be Charles's cousin, Philip. But King Edward III of England was the son of Charles's sister Isabella. The English said that this meant Edward should rule France, although Isabella could not. War broke out between Edward and Philip in 1337. The war would last until 1453 and became known as the Hundred Years' War. Although the English won some spectacular victories at Crécy, Poitiers and Agincourt, the French eventually won the war. England was left owning only the city of Calais. **H**



There were many battles throughout the Hundred Years' War, including this one at Crécy

BBC For more about Medieval Britain, visit www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/middle_ages/

TOP 10 MEDIEVAL MEDICAL TREATMENTS

- 1 **Trepanning:** making holes in the skull
- 2 **Confessions:** to cure the plague
- 3 **A knife:** forced into the eye to cure cataracts
- 4 **Unclean tubes:** unblocked bladders
- 5 **Bloodletting:** to 'balance the body fluids'
- 6 **Opening cupboards:** encouraged childbirth
- 7 **Clysters:** used to insert medicine into the anus
- 8 **Hot irons:** used to treat hemorrhoids
- 9 **Spoon:** used to remove arrowheads
- 10 **Dwale:** potion that did more harm than good

Quiz answer p40: 1066 – the Normans introduced surnames after their conquest. Initially, they changed frequently but gradually they began to stick and get passed down through the generations. **Quiz answer p45:** Berengaria of Navarre, who was Richard the Lionheart's wife. She only came to England after his death.

ALAMY X3, DREAMTIME, GETTY

**Get out of
the house
and make
history come
alive!**

Places to visit

Mysterious clans of knights, resplendent jewels, rugged castles and cryptic carvings. The medieval world comes alive on these days out...



Do the secrets of the Knights Templar lie in the carvings of Rosyton Cave?

1 CASTLE RUSHEN – ISLE OF MAN

One of the best-preserved medieval castles in Europe is home to figures in period costume, historical furnishings and wall hangings, realistic food and contemporary music. With panoramic views from the castle, this is a beautiful day out.

Castletown, Isle of Man IM9 1LD

☎ 01624 648000

► www.visitisleofman.com/placestovisit/heritage/castlerushen.xml

Open daily 10am–4pm (5pm, June–September)

£ Adult ticket £6.00

Child ticket £3.00

2 GOODRICH CASTLE – HEREFORDSHIRE

The castle is considered by historians to be one of the best examples of English military architecture. See the cannons that eventually led to its capture and marvel at the medieval living quarters.

Castle Lane, Goodrich, Ross on Wye, Herefordshire HR9 6HY

☎ 01600 890538

► www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/goodrich-castle

Open daily 10am–5pm (6pm, April–September)

£ Family ticket £20.00 (2 adults, up to 3 children)

3 ROYSTON CAVE – HERTFORDSHIRE

This man-made cavern in the shape of a beehive is believed to have once been visited by the mysterious and intriguing Knights Templar. Carvings and symbols only begin to hint as to what really happened there.

Melbourn Street, Royston, Hertfordshire SG8 7BZ

☎ 01763 245484

► www.roystoncave.co.uk

Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays 2.30pm–5pm. Also Bank Holiday Mondays.

£ Adult ticket £5.00

Child ticket £1.00

5 COSMESTON MEDIEVAL VILLAGE – GLAMORGAN

Arguably the best medieval reconstruction site in Britain, Cosmeston includes a Reeve's house, a pub, medieval gardens and a swineherd's cottage, complete with pigpen. Only discovered in the 1980s, it has been lovingly restored to resemble the old village, which was constructed around a fortified manor house built by the De Costentin family in the early 12th century. The De Costentins were Norman knights who had arrived with William the Conqueror. The village was used for the BBC TV series *Merlin*. Take an independent walk around or visit for one of its special events.

Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan CF64 5UY

☎ 029 2070 1678

► www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/cosmeston

Open daily 10am–5pm (4pm, October–March)

£ Admission free 10am–12pm, then adult ticket £4.00, child ticket £3.00

4 MEDIEVAL SECTION, V&A MUSEUM – LONDON

Visit one of Britain's most prestigious museums to see its bursting medieval section. A dazzling jewellery section, along with sculptures, paintings and music, means there is something to please everyone.

Cromwell Road, London SW7 2RL

☎ 020 7942 2000

► www.vam.ac.uk

Open daily 10am–5.45pm (10am–10pm Fridays)

£ Admission free

Enjoy the Crusades-era reenactments at Cosmeston Medieval Village



Acorns were gathered for the village's pig in November, ready to use its meat in winter



1

Inverness



2

Glasgow Edinburgh

SCOTLAND

N. IRELAND

Belfast

Carlisle

Douglas

Leeds

Liverpool

Chester

ENGLAND

Birmingham

WALES

Cambridge

Oxford

Cardiff

Bristol

London

Winchester

Portsmouth

Hastings

Falmouth



5



3



4

AD 43–410

410–1066

Medieval Britain
1066–1485

1485–1603

1603–1714

1714–1837

1837–1901

1901–present



Almshouses in Stratford-upon-Avon. These were built in the 15th century by the Guild of the Holy Cross to act as homes for the elderly

ALAMY

1485–1603

Early Modern

Famous figures such as Henry VIII and Elizabeth I dominate this period, when great changes were afoot in almost every aspect of life and society

AT A GLANCE



**Henry VIII
and his wives**

p50



**Mary, Queen
of Scots**

p51



**William
Shakespeare**

p52



**The Spanish
Armada**

p53



**Conquering
the seas**

p54



The Reformation p56

1485–1603

Early Modern

QUICK QUIZ! Which Tudor monarch played the lute and the harp? Find the answer on page 57...

THIS PERIOD is perhaps most famous for the dynasty that ruled in England, Wales and Ireland from 1485 to 1603: the Tudors. Scotland remained an independent kingdom throughout these years. When the last Tudor monarch, Elizabeth I, died in 1603, the crown of England passed to her cousin James VI of Scotland who thus also became James I of England. In this way, the entire British Isles came under the control of the same monarch for the first time in history.

By the time Henry VII became the first Tudor King of England in 1485, Britain was starting to undergo dramatic changes. These developments would continue over the following centuries, and by the end of the dynasty, people would lead very different lives from those living under the earliest Tudor sovereigns.

In England, King Henry VII and his son Henry VIII were determined that their

realm should never again be torn part by dynastic wars such as the Wars of the Roses. They overhauled government with a view to centralise power and to curb the influence of overmighty nobles. However, many scholars now actually believe that the nobility was almost as strong in 1603 as it had been in 1485.

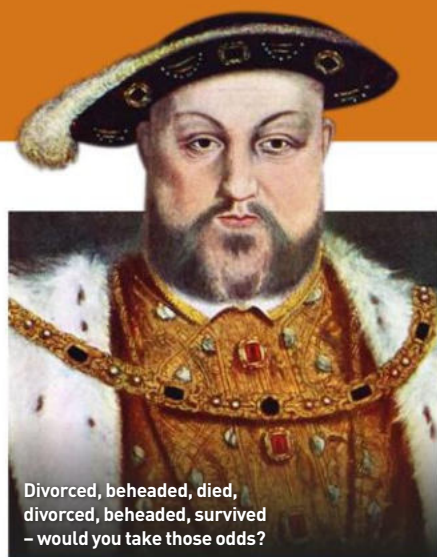
Wales on top
With the accession of the first Tudor king, it was observed that the Welsh "may now be said to have recovered their former independence, for the most wise and fortunate Henry VII is a Welshman."

Power shift

There were economic developments under the Tudors too. England's growing wool trade had been bringing prosperity to the country for some generations, but during the early Tudor period it became increasingly important – accounting

for 90 per cent of all exports at its height. International trade also boomed, as new types of ship were developed that made long-distance trade more possible.

An important innovation was the joint-stock company, today better known as a limited company. This allowed a group of merchants to each invest a fixed sum of ➤



Divorced, beheaded, died,
divorced, beheaded, survived
– would you take those odds?

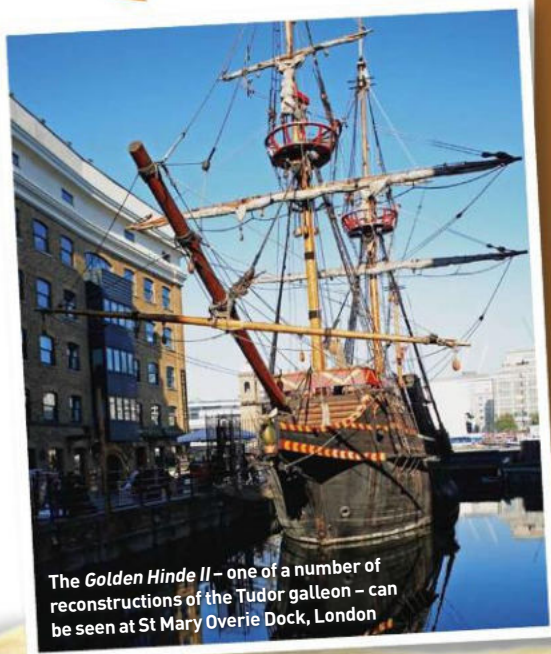
Henry VIII and his wives

Marrying this king was a risky business

King Henry VIII knew that if he did not produce an heir, England might collapse into civil war. His first wife, Catherine of Aragon, gave him a daughter, later Mary I. But Henry wanted a son. Henry's marriage to Catherine was declared invalid and, in 1533, he married Anne Boleyn, who gave birth to another girl, Elizabeth. Henry believed that Anne would give him no more children, and in 1536, she was accused of having been unfaithful to the king and was executed. A third wife, Jane Seymour, produced the much wanted son, Edward, but died within days of giving birth. Henry's fourth wife was Anne of Cleves, but Henry annulled his marriage to her within days. At the age of 49, Henry next married Catherine Howard, who was just 17. After only a year of marriage, Catherine, like Anne, was accused of adultery and executed. The following year Henry married Catherine Parr, who was 31 years old and had twice been widowed. Henry died four years later, leaving Catherine a widow once more.

The Golden Hinde

Sir Francis Drake's flagship galleon, the Golden Hinde, charted the course for British history. Home to a crew of over 70 and armed with cannons, the vessel was not only intended to sail around the globe, it was also essential for Drake's raids on the Spanish.



The Golden Hinde II – one of a number of reconstructions of the Tudor galleon – can be seen at St Mary Overie Dock, London

Timeline

1485–1534

- 1485 Henry Tudor wins the battle of Bosworth and becomes king
- 1502 Henry VI's successor dies, leaving the throne to Prince Henry
- 1509 Henry marries Catherine of Aragon
- 1521 Henry VIII is named 'defender of the faith' by Pope Leo X
- 1533 Elizabeth is born to Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn
- 1534 Act of Supremacy is passed in Parliament

Mary's execution was not clean – it took two strikes of the executioner's axe to cut through her neck.



Found guilty of plotting to kill Queen Elizabeth, Mary was beheaded at Fotheringhay Castle, Northamptonshire

AD 43–410

410–1066

1066–1485

Early Modern
1485–1603

1603–1714

1714–1837

Mary, Queen of Scots

Mary's life was full of drama, with murder, marriage and treason in the plot

Born in 1542, Mary Stuart became Queen of Scotland at the age of just six days. The young queen was sent to France when just six years old and Scotland was ruled by her mother, Mary of Guise. In 1558, Mary married Prince Francis, who became king of France the following year. Francis died 18 months into his rule, and Mary returned to Scotland to take over the government from her brother.

Mary married her cousin, Lord Darnley, but the marriage was unhappy. In 1567, the house where Darnley was staying was blown up and he was killed. It was widely thought that the murder was carried out by James, Earl of Bothwell. Just three months later, Mary married Bothwell. The Scottish nobles were outraged and led a rebellion

that forced Mary to abdicate in favour of her son James. Moray then became regent.

Family politics

Mary fled south to England where she hoped her cousin, Queen Elizabeth I, would lend her an army with which to regain the Scottish throne. Elizabeth, however, had a problem. The marriage of her father Henry VIII to her mother Anne Boleyn was invalid according to Catholic law. The true monarch of England, in Catholic eyes, was Mary. Elizabeth ordered that Mary be given comfortable lodgings befitting a queen, but to be kept under armed guard. In 1586, the English spymaster Lord Walsingham intercepted letters between Mary and a Catholic plotter named Sir Anthony

Babington. The correspondence showed them plotting to murder Elizabeth. After a trial, Mary was executed for treason in February 1587.

Some argue that Mary was an ambitious leader, others, an immature one



01

➤ money in a particular venture, such as a merchant voyage. If the venture succeeded, each person took a share of the profits, but if it failed the participants lost only what they had agreed to put in. The Muscovy Company, formed in 1555, and the East India Company, formed in 1600, became



At the Guildhall in Lavenham, Suffolk, you can find out about the history of the wool trade

rich and powerful multinational businesses within a few years.

In the later Tudor period, the population grew rapidly. This led to shortages of good farming land in the country, so many rural families moved to towns and cities to look for work. This rapid urbanisation caused a fall in wages and an increase in poverty. In time, the continuing growth of trade and prosperity would rectify the situation, but this process was not firmly in place by the end of the Tudor period.

House rules

Wales had for centuries been ruled by the Kings of England (ever since the conquest of Edward I). It wasn't until the Tudors (a dynasty that had Welsh origins), that the relationship between England and Wales was codified. Between 1535 and 1542, King Henry

VIII passed a series of laws that established a formal system of government over Wales.

The local lords were stripped of powers, which passed to the government. For the first time, the Welsh could elect MPs to sit in the English parliament, and the border was legally established. Laws that discriminated against the Welsh were repealed and the counties of Wales were put on an equal footing with those of England. Less welcome in Wales, was the fact that English became the official language to be used in all legal and government documents.

Changes in Ireland

In Ireland, the political and social conditions were yet more confused.

The kings of England had, for some generations, been using the title Lord of ➤

Not to brag, but put a quill in my hand and I become the phrase master.
"Cruel to be kind" – mine.
"Wild goose chase" – mine.
"Green-eyed monster" – mine.
"Love is blind" – you got it, mine!

William Shakespeare

The bard's poems and plays are even more popular today than they were in his lifetime – but who is the man behind the verse?

Born in 1564, William Shakespeare has long been recognised as the greatest playwright in English history.

Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon, to a prosperous family of glove-makers and wool merchants. At the age of 18 he married Anne Hathaway and had three children. He moved to London some time between 1585-92 and became an actor and was soon writing plays and becoming part-owner of the theatrical company The Lord Chamberlain's Men. At first, Shakespeare wrote comedies and histories, but he later turned to tragedies.

In 1613, he retired back to Stratford and died three years later.

Shakespeare's writing is noted for its strong portrayal of characters, its lyrical measure and poetic sound. It is generally reckoned that his later works are superior to his earlier plays and that the tragedies such as *Hamlet*, *Othello* and *Macbeth* are among the greatest works in the English language.

In 1623, most of Shakespeare's plays were published in a book named the *First Folio*. There have since been endless disputes about how accurate the *First Folio* is, whether other plays may have been written by Shakespeare and even if Shakespeare himself wrote the plays that carry his name.



Timeline 1536–1603

1542

The battle of Solway Moss. James V dies and is succeeded by Mary, Queen of Scots

1553

Lady Jane Grey ascends the throne for nine days, before being beheaded

1569

Catholic nobility try to overthrow Elizabeth in the 'Rising of the North'

1536

Dissolution of the monasteries is put into action

1547

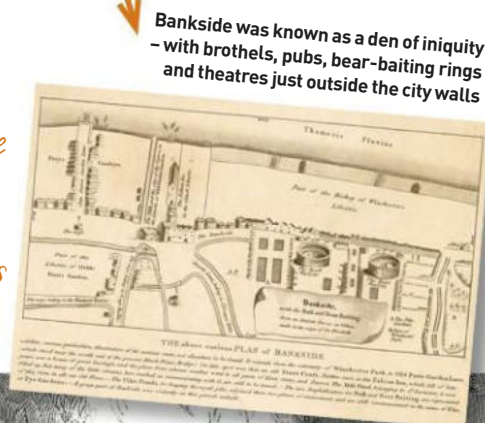
Henry VIII dies and his son, Edward VI, takes the throne

1559

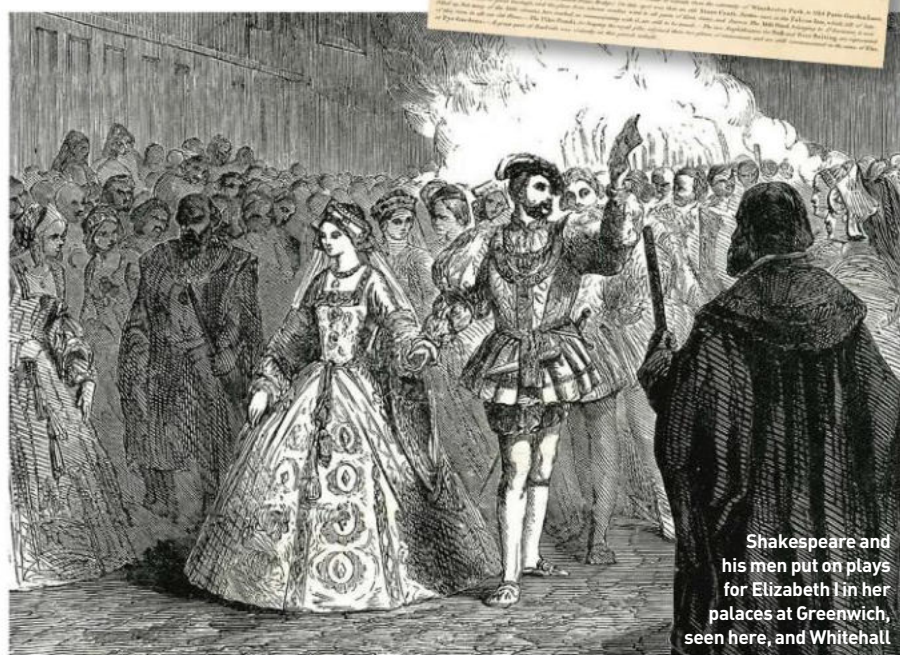
Elizabeth I is crowned queen regnant of England and Ireland

Stage of change

In Elizabethan times, attitude towards theatre changed from that of a disreputable pastime, to a highly popular one. As theatres were banned within the capital city's walls, a thriving scene grew just outside, in *Bankside* – where Shakespeare's *Globe Theatre* stands today.



Bankside was known as a den of iniquity – with brothels, pubs, bear-baiting rings and theatres just outside the city walls



Shakespeare and his men put on plays for Elizabeth I in her palaces at Greenwich, seen here, and Whitehall

REWRITING HISTORY – Shakespeare's plays sculpted many historical figures' reputations, sometimes detrimentally. Richard III is portrayed as a power-hungry child-killer, while the Scottish king, Macbeth, murders an old man in his bed.

Out of the fire and into the storm – the Spanish were trapped by extreme elements



The Spanish Armada

Bad weather and good luck led to victory in unlikely circumstances

When Mary, Queen of Scots, was executed, she left her claim to the English throne to her cousin King Philip II of Spain. Philip was the leading Catholic monarch of Europe and he resented the way England gave support to fellow Protestants.

In 1587, Philip ordered that a vast fleet sail to the English Channel, smash the English navy and then transport a Spanish army waiting in the Netherlands to invade England.

When the Spanish fleet set sail it numbered 130 armed ships. The English fleet numbered 34 warships with around 150 merchant ships carrying some guns. For eight days in July 1588, the two fleets fought a series of battles as the Spanish sailed up the Channel. At midnight on 28 July, the English sent fireships toward the anchored Spanish fleet. The Spanish captains panicked and fled. A storm then scattered the Spanish across the North Sea. Steady winds stopped the Spanish returning to the Netherlands, so the commander, the Duke of Medina Sidonia, ordered the Armada to sail back to Spain around the north of Scotland. More storms battered the ships, already damaged by English gunfire. In all, 63 ships and 20,000 men were lost by the Spanish, while the English lost only the fireships and about 100 men.

1585

Elizabeth I signs the Nonsuch Treaty, giving her support to

1588

The English are victorious against the Spanish Armada

1595

The Nine Years' War begins, against English occupation

1603

After a 44-year reign, Elizabeth dies of ill health

1586

Mary, Queen of Scots is tried and executed for treason in 1587

1593

Hugh Roe O'Donnell leads an Irish rebellion against English rule

1601

The Earl of Essex attempts a coup against Elizabeth I. He is executed for treason

Tudor seafaring

Between defending the nation and exploring new frontiers, Tudor ships were all-important

During the 16th century, European ships were being built in new, more seaworthy designs, and methods of navigation were improving rapidly. This made long voyages safer than ever before.

Fishermen would regularly sail the Atlantic to catch cod, while whalers and sealers steered north to Greenland. European merchants had reached India by sailing around the south of Africa. Now they wanted to reach China by sailing around the north of Europe or North America. In 1496, King Henry VII hired Italian sailor, John Cabot, to explore North America. The following year, Cabot reached Canada. In 1576, Sir Martin Frobisher set out to sail to China. He was stopped by ice off Baffin Island and although he tried twice more, he failed to reach China. In 1584, Sir Walter Raleigh tried to establish a colony in what is now Virginia, North Carolina. Although he brought potatoes and tobacco back to Britain, the colonies failed.

Tudor monarchs realised that the merchants, fishermen and English coasts all needed protecting from enemy warships in time of war. Henry VII was the first British monarch to have a permanent fleet of warships – 15 in all – and he established the Royal Dockyards at Portsmouth. The royal fleet was doubled by Henry VIII.

Intelligent design

During the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, England's world-leading naval dockyards revolutionised warship design. They invented the 'ship rig' layout of sails, which would be used for the next four centuries, and produced ships with low, sleek hulls that could sail faster, turn quicker and carry heavier guns. Naval captains developed novel tactics with their new ships. They would manoeuvre

so that they could pound their opponents' ships with cannon and gunfire, instead of closing in so that they could board the enemy vessel and fight with swords and pistols. The new tactics were first deployed against the Spanish Armada, and thereafter became the most usual method of sea warfare. By the close of the Tudor period, the English Royal Navy dominated northern European waters.

When the easy-to-grow, nutritious potato arrived in Britain, it changed food and farming almost instantly.

Ships could sail faster, turn quicker and carry heavier guns



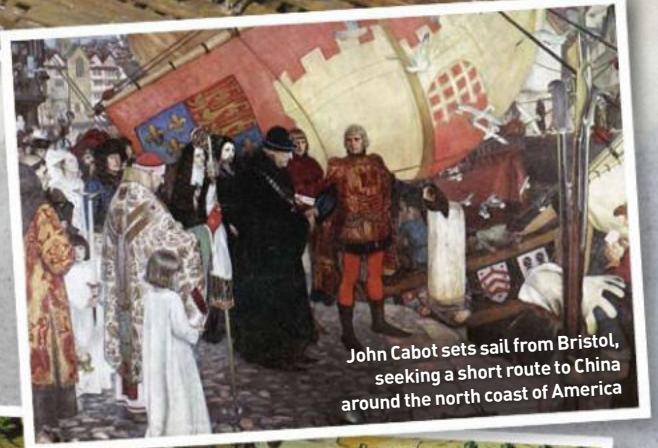
Ahoy! Francis Drake here. I've sailed all the world but I'm never happier than when playing a game of bowls. The Spanish Armada interrupted my game once – they won't be doing that again in a hurry!





Raising the *Mary Rose*

After the *Mary Rose* sank, attempts were made to raise it from the seabed, but none succeeded. In 1971, its wreck was rediscovered and it was successfully salvaged in 1982. Many years of painstaking reconstruction followed, and now the ship has a new home at the Portsmouth docks.



John Cabot sets sail from Bristol, seeking a short route to China around the north coast of America



Sir Walter Raleigh's plans to start a colony in Virginia ended in failure

Coolswallop!
John Cabot returned from his voyage to America with a load of old cod, and the king gave him just £10. Spices would have earned him a much greater reward.

The *Mary Rose* sank during battle with the French in 1545, after 34 years of service. About 500 crew members went down with the ship



During Mary's short reign, many Protestants were executed for their beliefs

The Reformation

As attitudes towards Catholicism shifted across Europe, so too did they change throughout Britain – with often bloody consequences

In 1517, a German monk named Martin Luther challenged the authority of the Pope, the opulent lifestyles of churchmen and several teachings of the Catholic church that were not based on Biblical texts. His followers became known as Protestants, because they protested against the Pope.

In England, Henry VIII took advantage of the ongoing religious debate to make himself head of a new form of Christianity – the Church of England – removing power from the Pope. This enabled Archbishop Cranmer of Canterbury to declare Henry's marriage to Catherine of Aragon invalid in 1533, which the Pope had refused to do. In 1536, Henry decided to dissolve the monasteries so as to divert their wealth into his own hands. In Yorkshire, 40,000 armed men gathered to demand that the monasteries be left alone, that taxes be lifted, and that the king abandon his religious reforms. This 'Pilgrimage of Grace' was soon put down, but, in its wake, Henry adopted more conservative religious policies.

Back and forth

In 1547, the Protestant Edward VI became king and introduced several radical reforms. When Edward died in

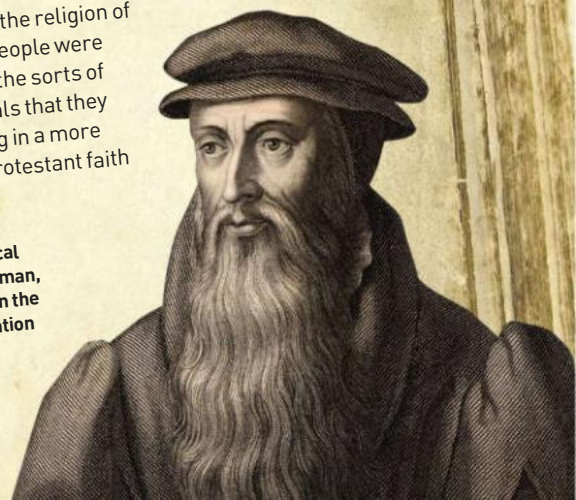
1553, his Catholic sister Mary became queen. Mary reintroduced Catholicism, but, with her death, the old faith was left vulnerable once more. When Elizabeth came to the throne in 1558, she introduced a more moderate form of Protestantism that aimed to allow as many people as possible to accept the national church organisation that her father had developed.

Scotland became Protestant later, but more thoroughly. Lutheran ideas began to be discussed in Scotland as early as the 1520s, but it was not until the 1540s that the ideas began to be taken seriously.

Preaching a riot

In May 1559, the fiery Protestant clergyman, John Knox, preached a sermon in Perth that caused a riot. The town's church and two priories were pillaged by the mob, which smashed statues and stained glass. Protestant mobs erupted in towns across central Scotland, forcing the Catholic government army to retreat. By July, Knox was preaching in Edinburgh, which likewise led to mobs smashing Catholic churches. In 1560, the Scottish parliament passed three laws that fully established Protestantism as the religion of Scotland. Local people were allowed to adopt the sorts of prayers and rituals that they wanted, resulting in a more mixed form of Protestant faith than in England.

John Knox, a radical Protestant clergyman, was a key figure in the Scottish Reformation



QUICK QUIZ! What caused almost half of all accidental deaths in the 16th century? Find the answer below...

1485–1603

Early Modern

➤ Ireland. However, the Lord of Ireland had only limited powers and did not rule in the sense that the same monarch ruled in England or Wales. In fact their area of authority was geographically very limited to the area around Dublin. Elsewhere, power mostly rested with local noblemen, who were often Gaelic chiefs as well. The Irish nobles fought private wars with each other, made treaties as they wished and lived by their own laws.

Ireland was strategically important to the kings in England. The Tudor monarchs sought to increase their powers in Ireland by bringing the nobles under their control. In 1541, Henry VIII was declared King of Ireland by the Irish parliament. Henry promised the Gaelic chieftains that they could keep most of their powers and rights, and a seat in the Irish House of Lords, if they recognised the new system. He also granted the nobles grand titles such as Earl of Tyrone for the head of the O'Neill clan.

Henry then sought to convert the loose, informal overlordship of the King of Ireland into a centralised, effective monarchy like that of England. This led to a series of rebellions, wars and riots that rumbled on throughout the Tudor period. The religious reformation in England spread to Ireland.

The government forcibly ordered the church to break from Rome and adopt Protestant rituals. Most Irish people refused to accept this and continued to practice Catholicism, under the guidance of their priests. The divide between those who took on Protestantism and those who wished to continue to follow the Catholic church set the tone for centuries of problems in Ireland thereafter.

Throughout the period, Scotland was ruled by the Stewart dynasty, as it had been since 1371. In 1513, the Scottish king James IV and most of his nobles were killed at the battle of Flodden during a disastrous invasion of England. Other wars with England followed until 1547, causing bloodshed and economic damage.

Despite the wars, Scotland became wealthier and more prosperous during the 16th century. Many artistic, scientific and cultural advances were introduced to Scotland as part of the Renaissance (the process

by which learnings from classical Greece and Rome were rediscovered anew). It was mandatory for the sons of landowners to attend schools, and as a result, by the 1580s, Scotland had the best educated population in Europe. The Scottish kings pushed hard to increase their powers over the semi-independent clans and nobles of the Highlands and islands. The efforts were partially successful.

The period starts and ends with a link between the Scottish and English thrones. In 1503, the Scottish king James IV married Margaret, the daughter of the Tudor Henry VII. A century later, in 1603, it was James and Margaret's great-grandson, also

James, who added the title of James I of England to his existing one of James VI of Scotland, after the death of the childless Elizabeth I. **H**

People only ever talk about the fact that I'm not married. Well, I am also fluent in several languages, have foiled treasonous plots and sank the Spanish Armada. Talk about THAT for a change!

BBC For more about the period, log onto www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/tudors

Courtly behaviour

In the hope of disguising their true emotions, members of the Tudor court would use polite, respectful language with their fiercest enemies. Right up until Elizabeth ordered Mary, Queen of Scots' execution, she referred to her as a "beloved sister".



TOP 10

TORTURE METHODS

- 1 Scavenger's daughter** Ultimate body crusher
- 2 Denailing** Pliers meet fingernails... pliers win
- 3 Little ease** A tiny room and days of mental agony
- 4 Manacles** Speak, or get strung up by the wrists
- 5 Torture chair** Take a seat – on 1500 spikes!
- 6 The rack** The limb-stretcher extraordinaire
- 7 Hot irons** Feel the burn of the branding iron
- 8 The brank** Putting a clamp on wagging tongues
- 9 The boot** Breaks nearly every bone in the foot
- 10 Thumbscrew** Cracks a thumb like a brittle twig

Quiz answer p50: Henry VIII – the hunting, jousting, womanising king also had a gentle, musical side. Quiz answer p57: Drownings. Most people couldn't swim – not great in a time when boats and water-powered factories were very important.

ALAMY X2, THINKSTOCK

AD 43–410

410–1066

1066–1485

Early Modern
1485–1603

1603–1714

1714–1837

1837–1901

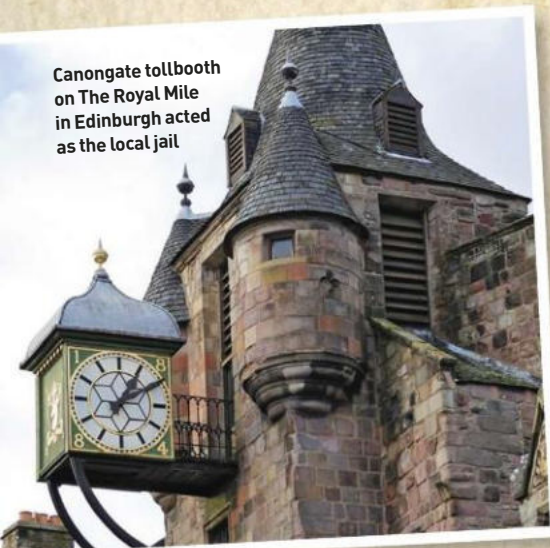
1901–present

Get out of
the house
and make
history come
alive!

Places to visit

Enjoy all the pomp and circumstance of life in early modern Britain with these fun activities to see and do!

Canongate tollbooth
on The Royal Mile
in Edinburgh acted
as the local jail



1 PEOVER HALL AND GARDENS – CHESHIRE

This Tudor mansion has a regal feel, featuring magnificent stables and an impressive moat. In the gardens are a 500-year-old oak tree and an avenue of peached limes.

Over Peover, Knutsford, Cheshire
WA16 9HW

☎ 01565 830395

► www.tattonestate.com/peover-hall-gardens-park

Open Tuesdays and Thursdays, May–August, tours at 2.30pm and 3.30pm

£ Admission from £4 (children free)

2 HAMPTON COURT PALACE – SURREY

Henry VIII, the infamous serial husband, resided in the palace for most of his life. See the house that he spent £62,000 (equivalent of £18million) on and discover the secrets, mysteries and myths behind his lavish lifestyle.

East Molesey, Surrey KT8 9AU

☎ 020 3166 6000

► www.hrp.org.uk/hamptoncourtpalace

Open daily 10am–6pm

£ Family ticket £46.80 (2 adults, 3 children)

3 MARGAM PARK – PORT TALBOT

Visit this breathtaking Tudor-gothic mansion and see 'how the other half lived'. After a disastrous fire in the 1970s major restoration was needed, but the original architecture and outbuildings still remain, as does a rumoured ghost.

Margam, Port Talbot SA13 2TJ

☎ 01639 881635

► www.margamcountrypark.co.uk

Open daily 10am–4.30pm

£ Admission free

4 THE ROYAL MILE – EDINBURGH

Take a historical trip through the heart of Edinburgh past Edinburgh Castle, Parliament Square and Queen Mary's Bath House – where she bathed in white wine.

The Royal Mile, Edinburgh EH1

► www.royal-mile.com

Available to visit all year round

£ Charges apply to choices made on trail

5 THE GLOBE – LONDON

The Globe theatre was originally built in 1599 but was destroyed by fire in 1613. Opened in 1997 and standing a few yards away from where the original theatre was first built is the Globe as it is today. The Globe exhibition and tour explore the story of Shakespeare, the way he lived and the theatre where his famous plays were first acted. Uncover the tragic history of the original Globe theatre and follow the reconstruction project that gives us the stunning building that we can see today.

Or, if you really want to get the Tudor theatre experience, book tickets to see one of their many shows.

21 New Globe Walk, London SE1 9DT

☎ 020 7902 1400

► www.shakespearesglobe.com

Open daily, tours every 30 minutes
9.30am–5pm

£ Family ticket for the exhibition and tour (2 adults, up to 3 children), £41.00

This reconstruction is approximately 230m
from the original Globe theatre



Take a tour around the famous theatre
or treat yourself to a show



AD 43–410

410–1066

1066–1485

Early Modern
1485–1603

1603–1714

1714–1837

1837–1901

1901–present

Inventions & discoveries

From flushing toilets to Shakespeare and steam engines, Britain has long been a land of invention

700-800 BC Forts

Iron Age hill forts begin to emerge across Britain.



c4500 BC

▲ Pottery
Early Britons begin to make simple items of pottery.

4000 BC-AD 0

150 BC Coins

Metal coins are in use for the first time.

1075

▼ Tower of London

Now one of the biggest tourist attractions in the UK, the Tower of London is first built as a fortress stronghold in turbulent times.



1589

▼ Knitting machine
William Lee invents a knitting machine.

1131

Tintern Abbey

The first abbey of its kind to be built in Wales, Tintern Abbey houses Cistercian monks.

1596

► Modern toilet
Sir John Harrington, also a writer, invents the first flushing toilet.



1702

First newspaper

The Daily Courant, the world's first regular daily newspaper, is first published on the 11th March 1702.

1634

Sedan chair

Allowing passengers to sit on a covered bench and be transported by two porters, the sedan chair lets aristocracy navigate through the narrow streets quicker.

1779

Ironbridge

The first bridge made of cast iron is built, during the industrial revolution.

1500-1800

1096

Oxford University

The first university in Britain starts educating students.

1476

The printing press

William Caxton introduces the printing press to the UK, and a year later the first dated book is printed.

1728

Marine chronometer

John Harrison invents the first accurate chronometer, allowing mariners to calculate longitude while at sea.

c1300-1400

▼ The hourglass

The hourglass becomes commonly used as a reliable method of measuring time while away at sea.



c2500 BC

▼ Stonehenge

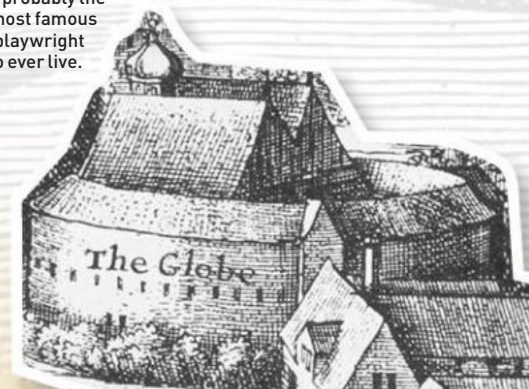
The lintelled stone circle is erected. Work on the Wiltshire site took place in several stages over hundreds, if not thousands, of years.



1599

▼ The Globe

The Globe theatre is built as the professional home of William Shakespeare, probably the most famous playwright to ever live.



1821
Electric Motor
After years of experiments with electric power, Michael Faraday finally creates the first ever electric motor.

1829
Metropolitan Police Force
Prime Minister Robert Peel is credited with creating the Met Police Force in London.



1840
▲ Postage stamp
The Penny Black stamp is introduced. All post costs one penny and is paid in advance (previously it was paid on delivery).

1845
London Road
The Victorians begin replacing cobblestones with tarmac – the first road with this flat surface is London Road in Nottingham.



1864
▲ Jelly Babies
The first jelly babies are made in Lancashire.

1911
▼ The Titanic
The building of the RMS *Titanic* is finished. A year later the 'unsinkable ship' would leave the dock at Southampton and sink on her tragic maiden voyage.



1916
Tanks
A tank is used for the first time in the First World War, in the battle of the Somme in France.



1938
► Gas masks
The first gas masks are distributed, a portent of the coming Second World War.

1958
Motorway
The first section of motorway in Britain is opened. The M6 Preston Bypass paves the way for a new national high-speed road network.

1967
BBC2
BBC2 becomes the first channel in Europe to start regularly showing programmes in colour.



1992
► Text messages
The world's first SMS message is sent through the Vodafone network.

1800–1900

1900–2016

1873
Easter egg
Bristolians were blessed with the first taste of a chocolate Easter egg thanks to Fry, Vaughan & Co.

1863
Football Association
Ebenezer Morley forms the FA to create a standardised set of rules for the game.

1838
▼ The bicycle
Originally known as a 'velocipede', the first pedal-driven bike is invented by a Scotsman, Kirkpatrick Macmillan.



1940
Rationing
People are given ration cards to determine how much basic food they can have in a week. The whole country gets behind the war effort.

1981
Humber bridge
The then-largest single-span bridge opens. The Humber bridge is 2,200m long.

1969
► Concorde
Built jointly with France, the first supersonic jet Concorde takes its maiden flight.



1959
▼ The Mini
For £496 (a whole year's wages for many) Brits can buy a new Mini Cooper, which rolls off the production line for the first time in August 1959.



© JONNY/STOCK X4, WIKIPEDIA X9, GETTY, CORBIS



THE CIVIL WARS ARE
ESTIMATED TO HAVE COST THE
LIVES OF 190,000 PEOPLE

1603–1714

The Stuarts

Bomb plots, plagues and city-destroying fires, the time of the Stuarts saw a Scottish house rule Britain, the murder of a king and bloody civil war...

AT A GLANCE



The Union of the Crowns

p64



The gunpowder plot

p65



Sir Isaac Newton

p66



The Restoration

p67



The Civil Wars

p68



The Great Plague and Great Fire of London

p70



James I was
also James VI
of Scotland

The Union of the Crowns

In 1707, England and Scotland finally came together as a single state

Although England and Scotland had shared a monarch since 1603, the two countries were still separate states as the 18th century dawned. Attempts had been made to bring about a parliamentary union in the previous century but none had been successful. In 1706, powerful groups in both nations had something to gain from such a union. In England, the rule of Queen Anne would be consolidated and the succession of a Protestant member of the House of Hanover guaranteed if Scotland could not choose another monarch in the future. North of the border, the Scottish economy had been devastated by the Darien scheme, an ill-fated attempt to establish a colony in Central America, and it would benefit from access to English markets abroad. Negotiations between English and Scottish representatives began in April 1706. Opposition to the union was strong, both among the populace and in the two parliaments, but the Act of Union was finally passed in 1707. It took effect on 1st May of that year, abolishing the separate Scottish parliament and making provisions for Scots to return MPs to the Westminster parliament and Scottish peers to sit in the House of Lords.

TWO MAJOR CONTROVERSIES dominate the history of Britain in the 17th century. One was the ongoing struggle between king and parliament over who would hold the reins of power. The other was the complicated religious quarrel between those with differing interpretations of the Christian path to redemption. Often the two elements were so closely woven together as to be indistinguishable.

James I, arriving in London from Scotland as the successor to Elizabeth I, soon had to survive a Catholic threat to his regime in the shape of the gunpowder plot of 1605. He went on to preside over a court

where favouritism flourished and corruption thrived but his government never faced such danger again. The court of his son was less sexually scandalous and less financially dubious but it was Charles I who lost his throne. His own defects of personality, and his determination to rule without what he saw as the interference of parliament, led him into war with his own subjects. Religion was just one of the battlegrounds on which Charles and his opponents fought.

Dutch courage!
In 1667, with London reeling from plague and fire, the Dutch navy sailed up the Thames Estuary and started sinking ships. A peace was reached in July.

Religious divide

At one end of the religious spectrum were the Puritans; at the other, Roman Catholics. The Puritans were radical Protestants who felt that the English Reformation had not gone far enough and that the Church was still contaminated by rituals and practices too close to Catholicism. During the reign of James I and the early years of Charles I's

Our goal, Sir, is a noble one! We will fight to limit the royal prerogative and to defend true English liberties! To clarify this, we've called ourselves the Roundheads.



Timeline 1603–1649

- 1603 Elizabeth I dies and is succeeded by James I
- 1605 The gunpowder plot attempts to blow up the king and parliament
- 1616 William Shakespeare dies aged 52
- 1625 Charles I becomes king, dispenses with parliament in 1629
- 1642 The Civil Wars begin. Charles I flees the capital
- 1649 Charles I executed before a crowd at Whitehall



Guy Fawkes, who was born in York, fought in the Eighty Years' War for Catholic Spain against Dutch Protestant reformers before joining the gunpowder plot

AD 43–410

410–1066

1066–1485

1485–1603

The Stuarts
1603–1713

1714–1837

1837–1901

1901–present

The actual leader of the gunpowder plot was Robert Catesby, who wished to see a Catholic named king of England.

The gunpowder plot

Remember, remember the time a Catholic gang attempted to blow up James I...

In the early hours of the morning of 5th November 1605, soldiers acting on a tip-off searched the cellars under the House of Lords in Westminster and found 36 barrels of gunpowder hidden under piles of firewood and coal, and a man calling himself John Johnson. His real name was Guy Fawkes. He had been planning to blow up the building later that day, during the state opening of parliament, killing the king, James I, much of his family and most of his ministers. Fawkes and his fellow conspirators in the gunpowder plot believed that this would pave the way for a popular uprising that would make England a Catholic nation once again. When word of

Fawkes's capture got out, Robert Catesby, the leader of the plot, fled London with a handful of companions. On the run, they were finally cornered in Holbeche House in Staffordshire and, in the ensuing fight on 8th November, Catesby and several other conspirators were killed. Meanwhile, Fawkes had been bravely resisting torture in the Tower of London, but his resolution had broken the day before the violence at Holbeche House. He had told the authorities all he knew about the plot. In January 1606, eight of the surviving conspirators, including Guy Fawkes, were put on trial and found guilty.

They were hanged, drawn and quartered opposite the building they had tried to blow up. The gunpowder plot is remembered in Britain every 5th November, which is still called Guy Fawkes Night.

From a plot to kill the king to fireworks displays all across Britain



1603–1714

The Stuarts

QUICK QUIZ! How many illegitimate children did Charles II have? Find the answer on page 71...

True Brits

The Stuarts were the last 'British' Royal House. After Queen Anne, the throne passed to Hanoverian kings and then to the House of Saxe-Coburg.

➤ rule, many saw themselves as an endangered minority in English society. Some voted with their feet, or their sea-legs, and left for America to escape persecution. The Pilgrim Fathers, who sailed from England on the *Mayflower* in 1620, were only the most famous of these emigrants. In the course of the Civil Wars, many people who would earlier have been described as Puritans came to wield power. One result was the suppression during Cromwell's rule of what was seen as the 'popish' celebration of Christmas.

The Civil Wars and the Commonwealth were years of intellectual ferment, rarely equalled in British history. In what was, according to the title of a pamphlet of the day, a 'world turned upside down', radical ideas, both religious and political, were allowed to flourish. The Levellers emerged

from London taverns and the ranks of the New Model Army with notions of popular sovereignty, voting rights and the need for religious tolerance. At a series of

debates in Putney Church in 1647, Leveller opinions were strongly expressed.

One of their leaders, Thomas Rainsborough, provided an early but somewhat eloquent expression of democratic beliefs when he said that he thought "the poorest he that is in England hath a life to live, as the greatest he and... every man that is to live under a government ought first by his own consent to put himself under that government."

The Diggers, under their leader Gerrard Winstanley, anticipated some of the ideas of both communism and the green movement, when they briefly created a small agrarian community near Weybridge in Surrey. Such



The *Mayflower* took 102 Pilgrims to New England. Almost half the company died in the first winter

radical ideas were frowned upon by Cromwell's government in the 1650s, but they were driven underground rather than destroyed completely.

'No popery' was a potent cry throughout the century. In the 1630s and 1640s, much of the Archbishop of Canterbury William Laud's unpopularity rested on the belief ➤

Sir Isaac Newton

Removed from school by his mother so he might train as a farmer, Newton returned to education and became one of the world's greatest scientists

In the second half of the 17th century, an intellectual revolution gathered momentum as developments in mathematics, astronomy, physics and other disciplines marked the emergence of modern science. The Royal Society, founded in 1660 and granted a royal charter 18 months later, championed the new learning and made the polymath Robert Hooke its Curator of Experiments. The greatest representative of this scientific revolution, however, was an eccentric, unsociable and occasionally quarrelsome genius named Isaac Newton. Born in Lincolnshire in 1642, Newton was educated at Cambridge, where he

became Lucasian Professor of Mathematics, a post more recently held by Stephen Hawking. He made advances in nearly every branch of science and mathematics but his most influential work was his *Principia Mathematica*, in which he stated his laws of motion and his law of universal gravitation, the foundation stones of classical mechanics. Often described as the greatest scientist of all time, Newton was modest about his own achievements, once writing that, "I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the sea-shore, and diverting myself in now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, whilst the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me."

Newton built the first reflecting telescope and created a universal law of cooling

Timeline 1650–1714

1651
Civil wars end and Charles II flees for exile in France

1660
The Restoration as Charles II returns and is named king

1666
The Great Fire of London consumes over 13,000 houses

1650
Charles II leads the Scots loyalists in an invasion of England

1658
Oliver Cromwell dies a year after refusing the crown

1665
The Great Plague of London kills 100,000 people

Call the doctor!

When Charles II had a fit while shaving in 1685, 14 top doctors gave him an array of treatments including drawing a pint of his blood, giving him a strong laxative, putting plasters made from pigeon droppings onto the soles of his feet and feeding him gallstones from the bladder of a goat. He died two days later.



Charles II, unaided by his physicians, on his death bed at the Palace Of Whitehall, London

LARGE APPETITE? Charles II was famous for having many mistresses. One of them, Louise de Keroualle, was nicknamed 'Fubbs', from an old English word meaning 'chubby.'

I am King Charles II and no spaniel jokes in my presence, please! I may have had to run from Britain in disguise but the people welcomed me back from my exile in France by throwing flowers in my path. NOT SPANIELS!



The Restoration

The return of the king and the end of Republicanism

Oliver Cromwell died at the beginning of September 1658. Those who tried to rule the country after his death did not have his abilities. Less than two years later the English experiment in Republican government came to an end – the country had a monarch once again. Charles II, who had fled to France in the aftermath of the battle of Worcester in 1651, returned in triumph as king in May 1660. Landing at Dover on the 25th of the month, he entered London on the 29th, his 30th birthday. According to the diarist John Evelyn, the king's path was "strewn with flowers, the bells ringing, the streets hung with tapestry, fountains running with wine". Charles had been obliged to make a number of promises to ensure his return and the support of George Monck, a general under Cromwell, and his soldiers had been essential. The monarchy was restored.

1685
Charles II dies and his brother James II takes the throne

1685
The Duke of Monmouth tries and fails to overthrow James II

1687
Isaac Newton's *Principia* states the laws of motion

1688
The 'Glorious', or 'Bloodless', Revolution sees James II overthrown

1689
William III and Mary II are crowned joint monarchs

1702
William III dies and is succeeded by his sister-in-law Anne

1707
The Act Of Union creates the Kingdom of Great Britain

1711
New St Paul's Cathedral is declared complete

AD 43–410

410–1066

1066–1485

1485–1603

The Stuarts
1603–1714

1714–1837

1837–1901

1901–present

The Civil Wars

Crown vs. parliament, with three kingdoms as the prize...

The term 'English Civil War' is a misleading one. This was not a single conflict between Charles I and his English parliament but a series of civil wars that had a major impact on all the countries ruled by the Stuart king – England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. They began with the Bishops' Wars of 1639–40, in which Charles attempted unsuccessfully to impose his own ideas about religion and the role of bishops on Scotland. His defeat by the Scots weakened his position in England, where his insistence on his own divine right to rule as he wished was challenged by the parliament he was obliged, for financial reasons, to summon. Confrontation between the king and his opponents culminated in both sides raising troops, and civil war came to England.

PARLIAMENTARY DOMINANCE

Early battles, such as Edgehill in 1642 were indecisive. The country was rapidly divided, with parliament holding London and the east of England while the king, with his court in Oxford, was strongest in Wales, the North and the West Country. Battles and skirmishes took place and towns and cities were besieged but neither side could gain a decisive advantage. Only with the formation of the New Model Army and the rise to military prominence of Oliver Cromwell did the parliamentary troops begin to dominate. Their victories at the battles of Marston Moor (1644) and Naseby (1645) forced Charles into surrender. Peace talks and negotiations repeatedly failed. War resumed in 1648 but was swiftly brought to an end when the New Model Army overwhelmed the English and Scots Royalists facing them. Charles was put on trial. In January 1649, wearing two shirts so that he would not tremble with the cold and be accused of fear, he was beheaded

outside the Banqueting House in Whitehall. Later the same year, Cromwell was despatched to Ireland to subdue that country. His brutal campaign, involving massacres at Drogheda and Wexford, which have never been forgotten by the Irish, was soon over and he returned to face the threat to parliamentary rule

Charles II famously hid in an oak tree to evade his pursuers

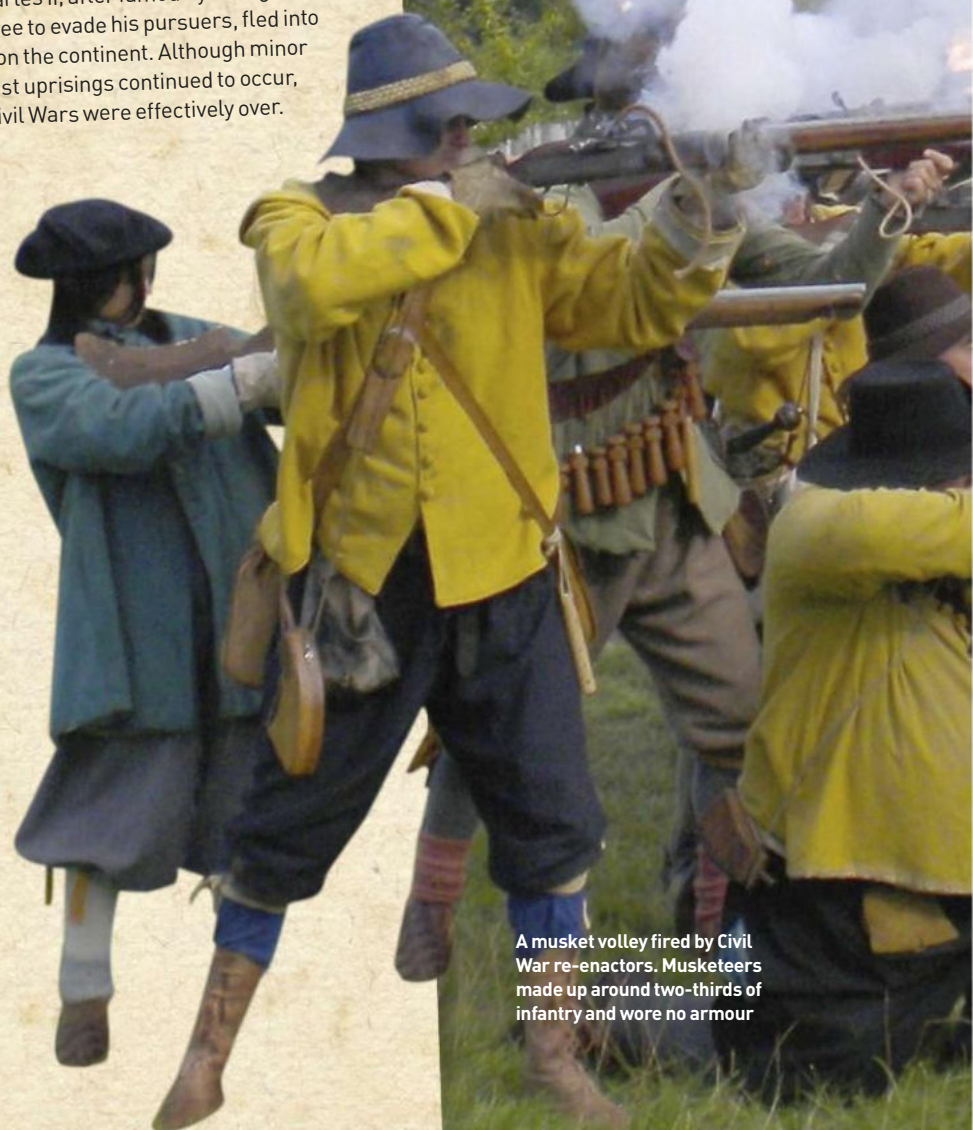
offered by a new alliance of Charles II and the Scots. His victories at Dunbar (1650) and Worcester (1651) soon put an end to

it. Charles II, after famously hiding in an oak tree to evade his pursuers, fled into exile on the continent. Although minor royalist uprisings continued to occur, the Civil Wars were effectively over.



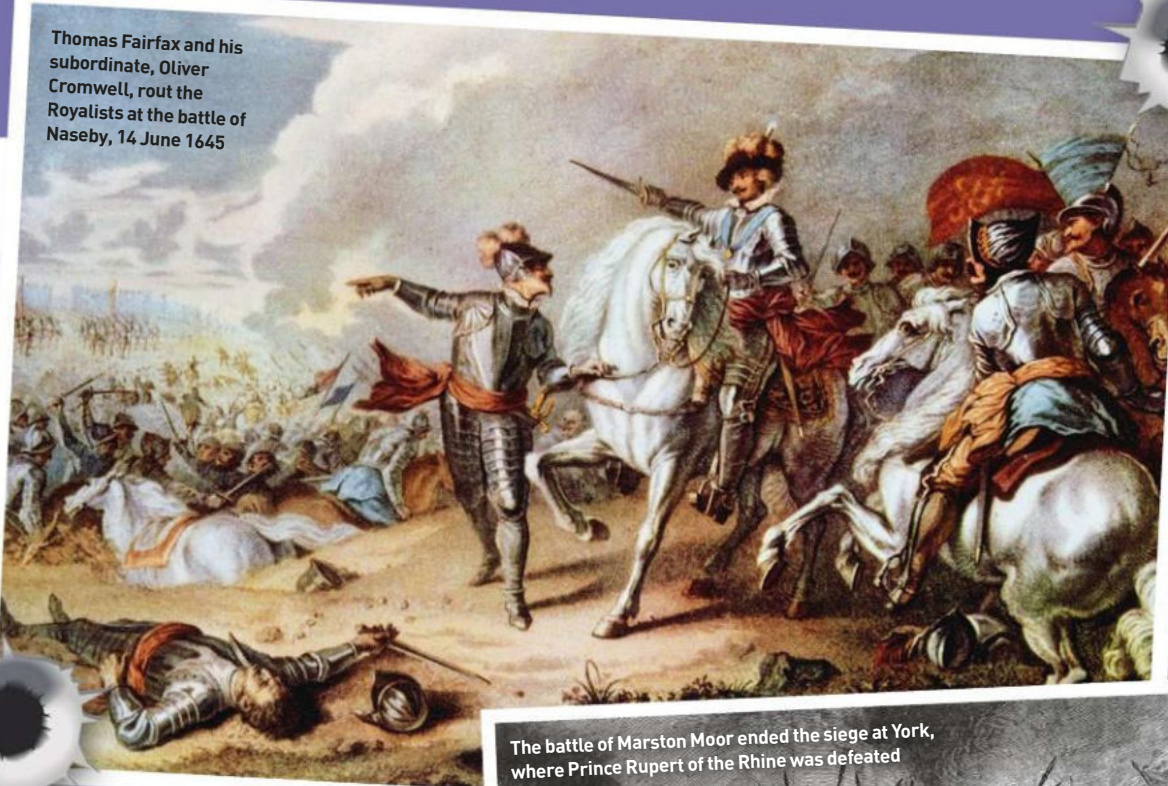
For king and country

These original Civil War pamphlets tell of Prince Rupert's victory at the second siege of Newark on 21st March 1644 and of the king's conditions for the surrender of Newark in May 1646.

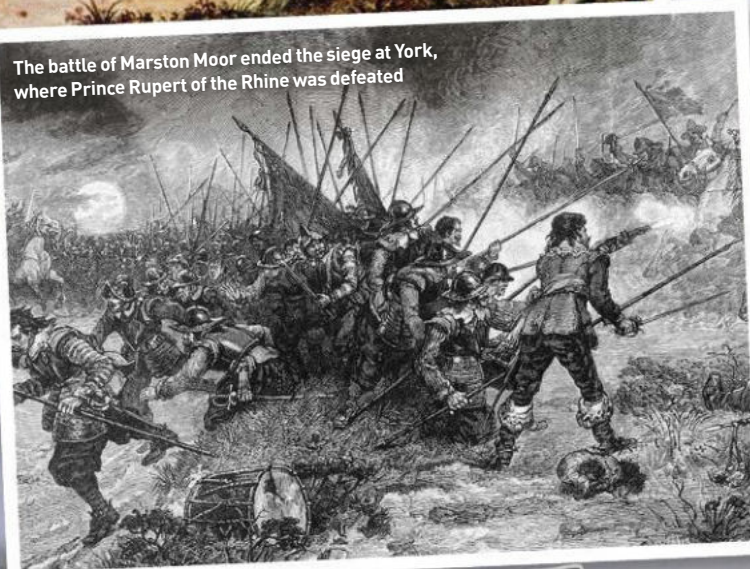


A musket volley fired by Civil War re-enactors. Musketeers made up around two-thirds of infantry and wore no armour

Thomas Fairfax and his subordinate, Oliver Cromwell, rout the Royalists at the battle of Naseby, 14 June 1645



The battle of Marston Moor ended the siege at York, where Prince Rupert of the Rhine was defeated



The wax death mask of Oliver Cromwell. Death masks were often used for effigies at state funerals.



AD 43–410

410–1066

1066–1485


1485–1603

The Stuarts
1603–1714

1714–1837

1837–1901

1901–present



The fire destroyed the medieval city of London within the old Roman City Wall

I am extremely relieved to have narrowly survived the Great Plague of London that took 100,00 lives. Phew! What a close call that was. Now I can recuperate in my extremely dry wooden house on Pudding Lane.

The Great Plague and Great Fire of London

Only a year after 15 per cent of London's population was killed by bubonic plague, 13,000 of the capital's houses were destroyed in a monstrous fire...

London faced two disasters in the 1660s. In 1665, bubonic plague struck many of its inhabitants. Fleas carried by rats brought the disease to the city. By the summer, thousands were dying every week. Those citizens who could do so left London. The king travelled to the safety of Hampton and then Oxford. Most of the population, particularly in the poorer areas of town where conditions actively encouraged the spread of the disease, were given no option. They were forced to stay.

Houses with the plague were marked with a red cross and could not be left. Burial grounds were soon overflowing. With cries of "Bring out your dead", men carted bodies to specially dug plague pits where they were dumped en masse. As many as 100,000 people may eventually have died.

Plague was followed the next year by another catastrophe. On Sunday 2nd September 1666, fire broke out in a bakery belonging to a man named Thomas Farriner. Farriner's premises were situated on Pudding Lane, close to London Bridge. From there, the Great Fire of London spread with

alarming speed. The wind helped to create a firestorm, which began to sweep through the largely wooden buildings of the overcrowded city. Pulling down buildings in its path in order to create firebreaks did not at first succeed. Only when the winds began to die down and gunpowder from the Tower of London was used to make larger gaps in the streets did the fire begin to abate. By the time it had been brought under some sort of control on Wednesday 5th September, it had destroyed St Paul's Cathedral, 87 parish churches and more than 13,000 houses. The devastation was enormous ("London was, but is no more", the diarist John Evelyn wrote) and yet, astonishingly, only a handful of people died.

Despite the enormous destruction of the Great Fire, only six verified deaths were recorded.

QUICK QUIZ! What did famous diarist Samuel Pepys bury in his garden before fleeing the Great Fire? Find the answer below...

1603–1714
The Stuarts

➤ that his High Church policies were letting in Catholicism by the back door. After the Restoration, Charles II's government faced plenty of troubles. The Great Plague was quickly followed by the Great Fire. Wars against the Dutch, which had begun under Cromwell's regime, were renewed. However, perhaps Charles's greatest difficulties were caused by religious hatreds.

Popish paranoia

Between 1678 and 1681, a hitherto obscure clergyman named Titus Oates invented an entirely imaginary Popish Plot against the king, which threw London and the court into a state of paranoia. Charles's position was not helped by the fact that his brother James, next in line to the throne, was an avowed Catholic. When he became king, James's attempts to make life easier for his co-religionists led to his own overthrow and the accession of his daughter Mary and her impeccably Protestant Dutch husband William. In the wake of what came to be known by some as the Glorious Revolution, the Bill of Rights (1689) and later the Act of Settlement (1701) were largely successful

attempts to draw a line under many of the constitutional disputes that had plagued the reigns of earlier Stuarts.

In cultural and intellectual life, the 17th century was also a time of creative upheaval. The scientific revolution was under way and the Royal Society, founded at the Restoration, marked the beginnings of modern scientific experimentation in Britain. Its work may have seemed remote from the lives of ordinary people, but the rebuilding of London after the fire was largely undertaken by Royal Society members Christopher Wren and Robert Hooke. The theatre, popular with all ranks of society in the Jacobean era, was suppressed during the Commonwealth. It returned after the Restoration as the favoured entertainment of debauched courtiers. In the second half of the century, new places for men of the growing mercantile classes to gather and exchange news and gossip developed. The first coffee house in London opened in 1652 in an alley off Cornhill. By the 1670s, there were more than 3,000 throughout the country. Coffee was not the only drink to have an impact on

the habits of the nation – tea was also becoming popular. Sugar sweetened the palates of the rich. Trade with distant parts of the world brought luxury consumer goods to those who could afford them. The newspaper industry had its tentative beginnings in the pamphlets of The Civil War and the gazettes of the Restoration. The first London daily, *The Daily Courant*, was to roll off the presses in 1702. During Queen Anne's reign, as the political gains of the Glorious Revolution were consolidated, the chaos of the previous century was over. A new Britain of trade and empire was in the making. **H**

Cromwell's crown
In 1657, Oliver Cromwell was offered the crown by parliament. The stability this gave the country appealed to him but eventually he turned the offer down.

St Michael's Alley, Cornhill, was the site of London's first coffee house



BBC For more about the Stuarts visit www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/civil_war_revolution

Mutual monarchs

In 1689, William of Orange and his wife, Mary II, were named joint sovereigns at Westminster Abbey. Mary had more entitlement to the throne than her husband, but William wished to rule in his own right and not be a consort.



TOP 10 SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES 1603-1713

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Theory of gravity Isaac Newton | 6 Discovery of cell biology Robert Hooke |
| 2 Orbit of a comet Edmond Halley | 7 The first laws of gases Robert Boyle |
| 3 The circulatory system William Harvey | 8 The Newtonian telescope Isaac Newton |
| 4 Infinitesimal calculus John Wallis | 9 The marine barometer Robert Hooke |
| 5 Theory of personal identity John Locke | 10 Introduction of > and < symbols Thomas Harriot |

Quiz answer p66: King Charles II supposedly had 17 illegitimate children, by eight different mistresses!
Quiz answer p71: He buried his papers, some wine and some Parmesan cheese before running from the flames.

AD 43–410

410–1066

1066–1485

1485–1603

The Stuarts
1603–1714

1714–1837

1837–1901

1901–present

Get out of
the house
and make
history come
alive!

Places to visit

History comes alive when you explore key sites from the era of the Stuarts. Here are five great days out of science, war and witchcraft



Pendle Hill – home of witchcraft?

1 BRAEMAR CASTLE – ABERDEENSHIRE

Thanks to its owner, the Earl of Mar, being a big supporter of the Union of the Crowns in 1603, this castle is steeped in history. Burned by the 'Black Colonel', John Farquharson, in 1689, Braemar was later rebuilt. Following refurbishment, it opened its doors to the public in 2008.

Braemar, Aberdeenshire AB35 5XR

☎ 01339 741219

► www.braemarcastle.co.uk

Open 10am–5pm Wednesday–Sunday (daily in July and August)

£ Family ticket £18.00 (2 adults, up to 3 children)

2 PENDLE HILL WITCH TRIALS – LANCASHIRE

Follow in the steps of the 'Pendle Hill witches' – a group of men and women who were put on trial for witchcraft over 400 years ago. See the dungeons, Grand Jury room and courthouse where the accusations were made.

Pendle Heritage Centre, Park Hill, Barrowford, Lancashire BB9 6JQ

☎ 01282 677150

► www.visitlancashire.com/explore/pendle-hill

Available all year round

£ Charges differ according to choice made on trail

3 MARSTON MOOR – YORKSHIRE

See for yourself where the biggest battle ever fought on British soil took place. Tens of thousands fought here in July 1644 in the first English Civil War. Signposts positioned in key places take you through the story of how a joint force of Parliamentarians and Scots crushed the Royalist army of Prince Rupert of the Rhine.

Marston Moor Monument, Long Marston, Tockwith Road, Tockwith, Yorkshire YO26 7PL

► www.historic-uk.com/historymagazine/destinationsuk/the-battle-of-marston-moor

Open all year round

£ Admission free

4 MUSEUM OF LONDON – LONDON

Visit the Museum of London and explore the Great Fire of London collection. Fire squirts, burnt barrels and books about the fire give a sense of how unprepared the city was. Did the fire stop the plague? Did Londoners believe the fire to be a Catholic plot? Discover the truth behind the myths.

150 London Wall, London EC2Y 5HN

☎ 020 7001 9844

► www.museumoflondon.org.uk

Open daily 10am–6pm

£ Admission free (charges apply for special exhibitions)

5 WOOLSTHORPE MANOR – LINCOLNSHIRE

Sir Isaac Newton was born (1642) and raised in this modest manor house, which is furnished and laid out as it would have been when the scientist lived there. Some of Newton's most famous work concerning light and gravity was undertaken when he lived at Woolsthorpe during the plague years of 1666–67. See the famous apple tree that aided Newton's genius on the theory of gravity, which still sits in the garden, and explore some more of his most celebrated scientific ideas and philosophies at the Science Discovery Centre next door.

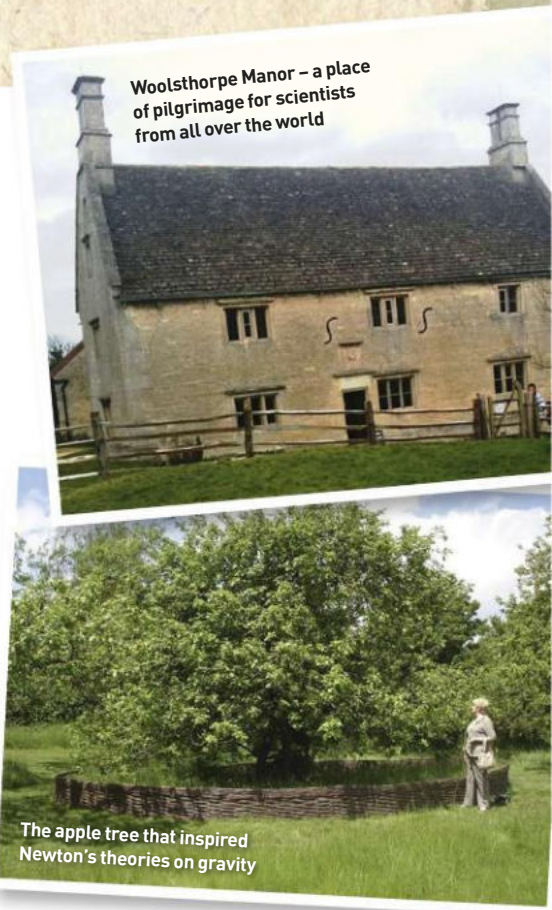
Water Lane, Woolsthorpe by Colsterworth, Lincs NG33 5PD

☎ 01476 862823

► www.nationaltrust.org.uk/woolsthorpe-manor

Open daily (except Tuesday) 11am–5pm (3pm, Monday, Friday–Sunday in November–March)

£ Family ticket £16.18



Woolsthorpe Manor – a place of pilgrimage for scientists from all over the world

The apple tree that inspired Newton's theories on gravity





Construction on The Circus in Bath started in 1754 and was completed in 1768

ALAMY

1714–1837

Georgian Britain

As industrialisation turned Britain into a world power, the American colonies were lost and the slave trade abolished

AT A GLANCE



The abolition of slavery

p77



Jane Austen

p78



Ireland and Britain

p79



The industrial revolution

p80



Nelson, Napoleon and fighting France

p82



The empire expands

p83

1714–1837

Georgian Britain

IN BRITAIN, THE 18th century was a period of social and economic change at home and empire and expansion abroad. The Hanoverian dynasty followed the Stuarts, with the accession of George I. He was followed by three further Georges, before William IV broke the trend at the end of the period.

Outside the court, ordinary Britons found their lives transformed by the long and large-scale historical processes historians have called the agricultural revolution and the industrial revolution. On the land, new methods of farming were needed to feed a growing population. New crops were introduced and technological developments allowed farmers to get larger yields. Enclosures (reassigning the ownership of land) put

more of the rural landscape to productive use but had a devastating impact on those whose lives had depended on the old way of doing things. At the same time, other economic forces were driving people off the land and into industrial labour.

Into the city

As the century progressed, Britain became more and more urbanised. Most people still earned their living from agriculture but the proportion of people in the towns and cities increased. In 1700, the population of London was probably just over 500,000. By 1801, when the first official census was taken, it was around a million. By

1831, it had increased to approximately 1,600,000.

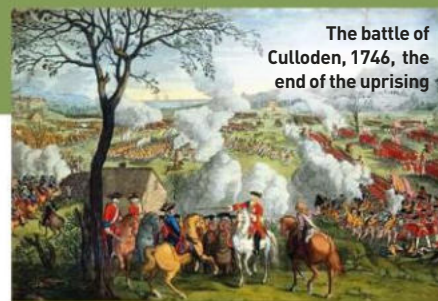
It was not just the capital that expanded its population in the 18th century. Although it remained by far the biggest urban area in the country, its growth was matched and indeed exceeded by other towns and cities. Manchester, a medium-sized town of 10,000 at the beginning of the 18th century, had more than 140,000 inhabitants by 1831.

In both country and city, this was a violent and unruly society. Riots were commonplace. There were election

I am Joseph Fry, holder of a medical practice in Bristol until I made chocolate in 1759. I was convinced that cocoa, which came into Bristol's ports from the new world, held positive health properties. Mmmm. Yummy health.



The Gordon riots of 1780, where thousands vented anti-Catholic anger, later featured in Charles Dickens' novel *Barnaby Rudge*



The battle of Culloden, 1746, the end of the uprising

The Jacobite uprisings

William of Orange took the throne, the followers of James II wanted it back

Jacobites were the supporters of King James II, deposed in 1688, and his heirs. Twice they mounted serious uprisings against the Hanoverian monarchy. In 1715, the son of James II, also James, called upon his supporters in Scotland to rebel. He was proclaimed king at a gathering of the Highland clans but the uprising was not a success. Few in England joined the rebellion and James proved himself to be an uninspiring leader. His troops were defeated in both England and Scotland and he was swiftly forced to escape to France.

30 years later, his son Charles – Bonnie Prince Charlie, also known as 'The Young Pretender' – landed with seven companions on the Hebridean island of Eriskay. He had grown up in exile in Italy. Once again the Highland clans rallied to the Stuart cause.

Within months the Prince had several thousand men and marched for war into England. He travelled as far south as Derbyshire before his council persuaded him that, faced with a large Hanoverian force, he should turn back to Scotland. After the retreat, the Jacobite army was badly beaten at the battle of Culloden near Inverness in April 1746 and Charles was forced to flee the country. The 'bonnie' prince died in Rome, an embittered drunk, in 1788.

Timeline

1714–1765

1721

Robert Walpole becomes the first British prime minister

1745

Charles Stuart arrives in Scotland to lead Jacobite army into England

1760

George III becomes King of England

1714

Queen Anne dies and is succeeded by King George I

1727

George II succeeds his father

1746

The Jacobites are defeated at the battle of Culloden

1765

Stamp tax provokes protests in Britain's American colonies

The abolition of slavery

Much of Britain's wealth was built on slavery, but moral opposition was growing...

The Atlantic slave trade was the source of a significant portion of Britain's wealth during the 18th century but opposition to its inhumanity and to the very existence of slavery grew as the century progressed.

Both philanthropists and politicians like William Wilberforce and Thomas Clarkson, and former slaves of African descent such as the writer and campaigner Olaudah Equiano, drew attention to the horrors of the traffic in human beings. A landmark legal judgement in 1772 in the case of James Somerset, an enslaved American brought to England by his master, ruled that he could not be forcibly returned to the colonies to be sold. 15 years later, the Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade, its early membership consisting primarily of Quakers, was founded.

From 1791 onwards, Wilberforce introduced a series of bills in the houses of parliament proposing the abolition of the slave trade, but it was not until 1807 that one of them passed into law. The Slave Trade Act of that year made the slave trade illegal throughout the British Empire.

Freedom from slavery

Although the trade itself was illegal, there were still plenty of slaves held, quite legally, in British territories throughout the West Indies. The abolitionists continued to campaign for a complete end to slavery. Finally, in 1833, the Slavery Abolition Act was passed. The government set aside £20 million to compensate slave-owners who had lost their 'property'. There was no compensation at all for those who had been enslaved and taken from their homes.

TO BE SOLD & LET
BY PUBLIC AUCTION,
On **MONDAY the 18th of MAY. 1829,**
UNDER THE TREES.

FOR SALE,
THE THREE FOLLOWING
SLAVES,

TO BE LET,
On the usual conditions of the hire finding them in Food, Clo, &c. and Medical

MALE AND FEMALE
SLAVES,

Also for Sale, at Eleven o'clock,
Fine Rice, Gram, Paddy, Books, Mus
Needles, Pins, Ribbons &c. &c.
AT ONE O'CLOCK, THAT CELEBRATED ENGLISH HORSE
BLUCHER,

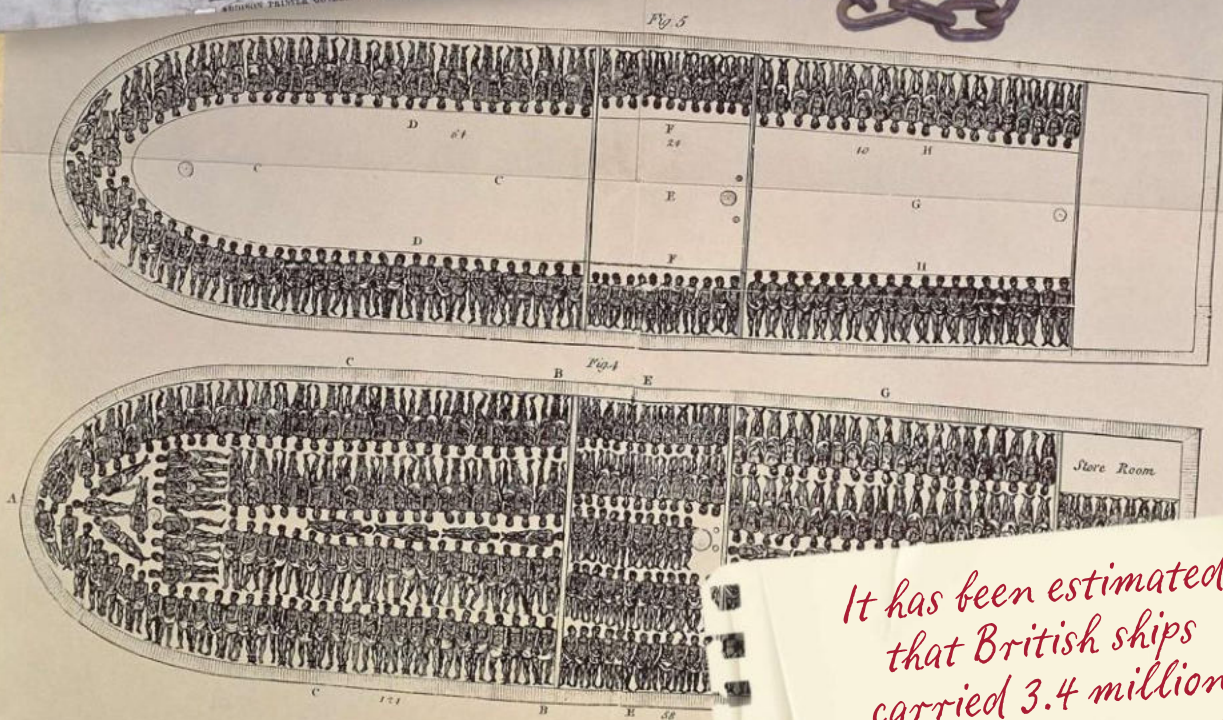
HANSIBAL, about 30 Years old, an excellent House Servant, of Good Character.
WILLIAM, about 35 Years old, a Labourer.
NANCY, an excellent House Servant and Nurse.
The MEN belonging to "LEITCH'S" Estate, and the WOMAN to Mrs D. SMYTH.

ROBERT BAGLEY, about 20 Years old, a good House Servant.
WILLIAM BAGLEY, about 18 Years old, a Labourer.
JACK ANTONIA, about 40 Years old, a Labourer.
PHILIP, an Excellent Fisherman.
HARRY, about 27 Years old, a good House Servant.
LECY, a Young Woman of good Character, used to House Work and the Nursery.
ELIZA, an Excellent Washerwoman.
CLARA, an Excellent Washerwoman.
FANNY, about 11 Years old, House Servant.
SARAH, about 11 Years old, House Servant.

ARTHUR PRINTER, GOVERNMENT



(far left) A poster advertising the sale of slaves from 1829. (left) The manacles that held a slave captive (below) The positioning of slaves on a 1786 slave ship, showing the horribly cramped conditions



It has been estimated that British ships carried 3.4 million enslaved Africans to the Americas.

1714–1837

Georgian Britain

➤ riots, food riots, riots against enclosures and against new machinery. The anti-Catholic Gordon Riots of 1780 caused turmoil in London for many days. Punishments were often savage and public. In 1746, the Jacobite rebels' heads were stuck on spikes and placed on view at Temple Bar



The beheading of the rebel lords Kilmarnock and Balmerino, who followed The Young Pretender

in London. The scaffold was not only where popular heroes like the highwayman Dick Turpin ended their lives, but also hundreds of less well-remembered criminals. Capital punishment was part of the theatre of urban life. As the 18th century went on, the number of offences for which you could lose your life came to include crimes such as damaging Westminster Bridge. Men and women were hanged for stealing cattle and sheep, and for what we would consider petty theft. The Bow Street Runners were formed in London in 1750, but they were never more than a small force. It was only in 1829 that the Metropolitan Police Service was created.

Shopping spree

It was during the 18th and early 19th centuries that a modern consumer society

Rising interest
In 1784, the first manned hot air balloon flight in English skies was made by Italian aviator Vincenzo Lunardi. It caused a sensation and 'balloonomania' spread.

began to emerge. Rising prosperity meant that more people had more disposable income and they wanted to spend it on luxury goods as well as life's essentials. It is noticeable that

continental visitors during the period nearly always commented on the splendour and magnificence of London's shops. At the same time as conspicuous consumption was on the increase among the upper classes and the growing middle classes, new spiritual forces were also at work. John Wesley, an evangelical clergyman within the Anglican Church, founded the Methodist movement. In the course of his life as an itinerant preacher, he is said to have ridden 250,000 miles and delivered 40,000 sermons, many of them in the open air to the kind of working people whom the established church rarely reached.

Jane Austen

The daughter of a lower gentry clergyman would go on to become one of the foremost literary detailers of love and social mores of the 19th century

When Jane Austen was writing in the early years of the 19th century, bestselling books included the romantic poetry of Lord Byron and the historical fiction of Sir Walter Scott. They did not include Austen's novels (*Pride and Prejudice*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Emma* and several others, some published posthumously). These did not even appear under her name, being credited to 'A Lady' or, later, 'The Author of *Sense and Sensibility*'. They did attract readers at the time, although not in anything like the

numbers that the works of Byron and Scott did. Her contemporaries would be surprised that, two centuries later, Jane Austen has become the most popular writer of the period. "Three or four families in a country village is the very thing to work on," she once wrote in a letter to a relative, and her books focus on the world of the provincial gentry in which she lived her outwardly uneventful life. They do so, however, with brilliant wit and irony and a penetrating insight into the complexity of human relationships. Jane Austen, who never married, died in 1817 at the age of only 41 and is buried in Winchester Cathedral.

Austen did accept a marriage proposal but changed her mind and died a spinster

Timeline

1768–1837

1775
Fighting breaks out between the British and the Americans

1780
Anti-Catholic violence begins with the Gordon Riots

1803
Britain complete its conquest of India at the battle of Assaye

1768
Captain Cook sets sail on his voyage to the Pacific

1776
The Declaration of Independence is approved

1800
Act of Union means the Irish are represented in Westminster

QUICK QUIZ! What sporting craze swept the nation in the 18th and 19th centuries?
Find the answer on page 83...



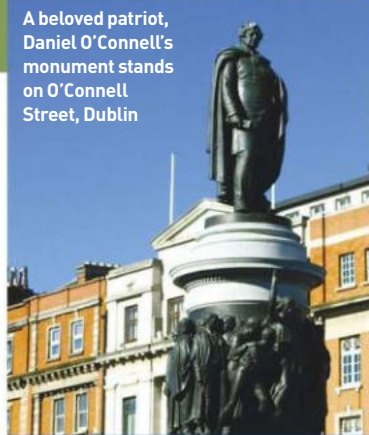
Some of the British army's 'Redcoat' soldiers in the American Revolutionary War were recruited from prisons

Independence in the colonies

In 1775, the American Revolutionary War began between Britain and the 13 colonies. Britain insisted it had the right to tax colonists to finance their military defences. The war lasted until 1783, even though the United States' Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776.

YE SCURVY DOG! There were many advances in health in the Georgian era. Among them, in 1747, James Lind proved that citrus fruit cured scurvy. Vitamin C was added to diets of sailors.

A beloved patriot, Daniel O'Connell's monument stands on O'Connell Street, Dublin

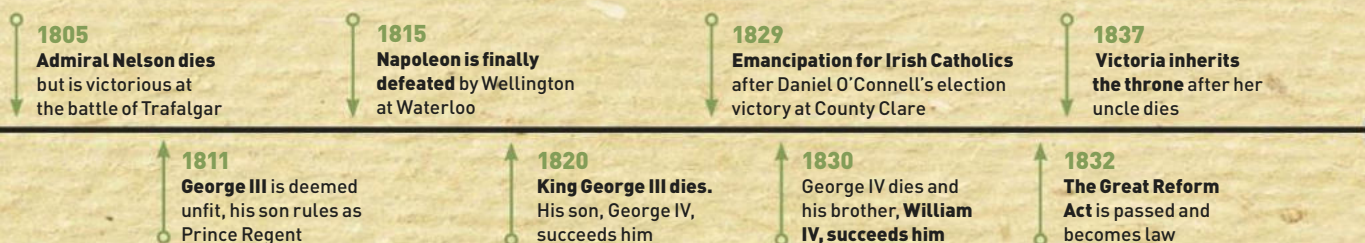


Ireland and Britain

Union and emancipation were hot topics in Ireland

Henry VIII became King of Ireland, as well as England, in the 16th century but it wasn't until 1800 that the Act of Union between the two countries was passed, by the parliaments in both Dublin and London. Union meant that Ireland's parliament was abolished and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland established (Scotland and England were already in union). Thereafter, MPs from Ireland would be members of parliament in London, though not if they were Catholic. Catholics were subject to laws limiting their civil rights, and emancipation (to give the right for them to sit in parliament) was informally promised after the Act of Union.

Emancipation did not in fact come to pass until 1829, after a campaign led by the Catholic lawyer Daniel O'Connell. After 1829, O'Connell set his sights on getting the Act of Union repealed. He died, unfulfilled in that ambition, in 1849.



The industrial revolution

Britain was transformed from an agricultural nation into a manufacturing powerhouse

Beginning about the middle of the 18th century and lasting well into the 19th century, a major social, technological and economic upheaval took place in Britain. It is usually known as the industrial revolution.

From an agricultural nation in which the majority worked on the land, the country was transformed into the world's first great industrial power. The manufacture of cloth was one of the first processes to undergo major changes.

Inventions such as Richard Arkwright's water-powered spinning frame and Edmund Cartwright's steam power loom revolutionised the production of textiles. Arkwright's mill in the Derbyshire village of Cromford, which began operating in 1772, became the prototype for hundreds of other such enterprises that altered the landscape of the north of England. In association with these new manufacturing technologies, new sources of energy were developed. Water was the driving force behind the mills but the future lay in steam power. The origins of the steam engine dated back as far as the water pump built by Thomas Newcomen in 1712, but it was James Watt who built the engines that drove industrial expansion.

Other industries were also undergoing dramatic change. Coal-mining, made more profitable by Watt's steam engines, produced a cheaper and more abundant fuel for the new factories than wood. The cast iron produced by three generations of the Darby family in Coalbrookdale, Shropshire, was of a new quality and can still be seen in the famous Iron Bridge, built in 1779. In conjunction with all these changes came a revolution in transport, as first the canal system and then the railway network dramatically increased the speed with which goods could be moved about the country.

Not everyone welcomed the changes brought about by the industrial revolution, however. The Luddites, cloth workers who smashed the new machines that were taking their jobs and reducing their families to destitution, fought to preserve their dignity. Many other people were uprooted from their rural lives. They were forced by economic circumstances to head for sprawling industrial towns like the rapidly expanding Manchester (known

as 'Cottonopolis') where their working day was long and the conditions in the mills and factories were often hellish.

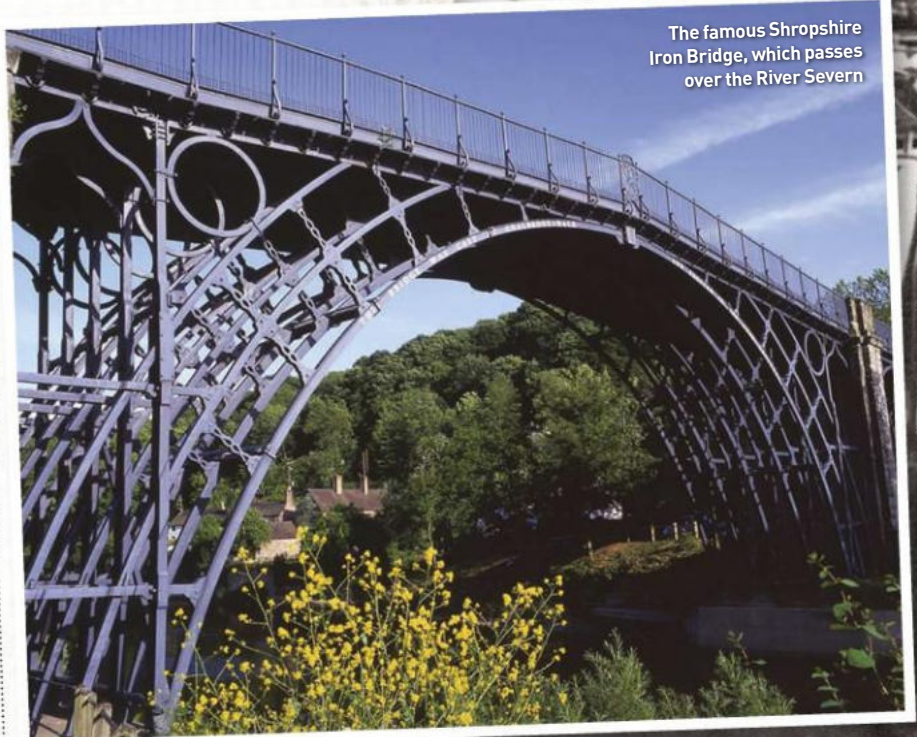
Conditions in the mills and factories were often hellish

Revolution may seem an inappropriate word for what happened in Britain, because it was actually a slow and gradual process of industrialisation over many decades, but it shaped the world in which we all now live.

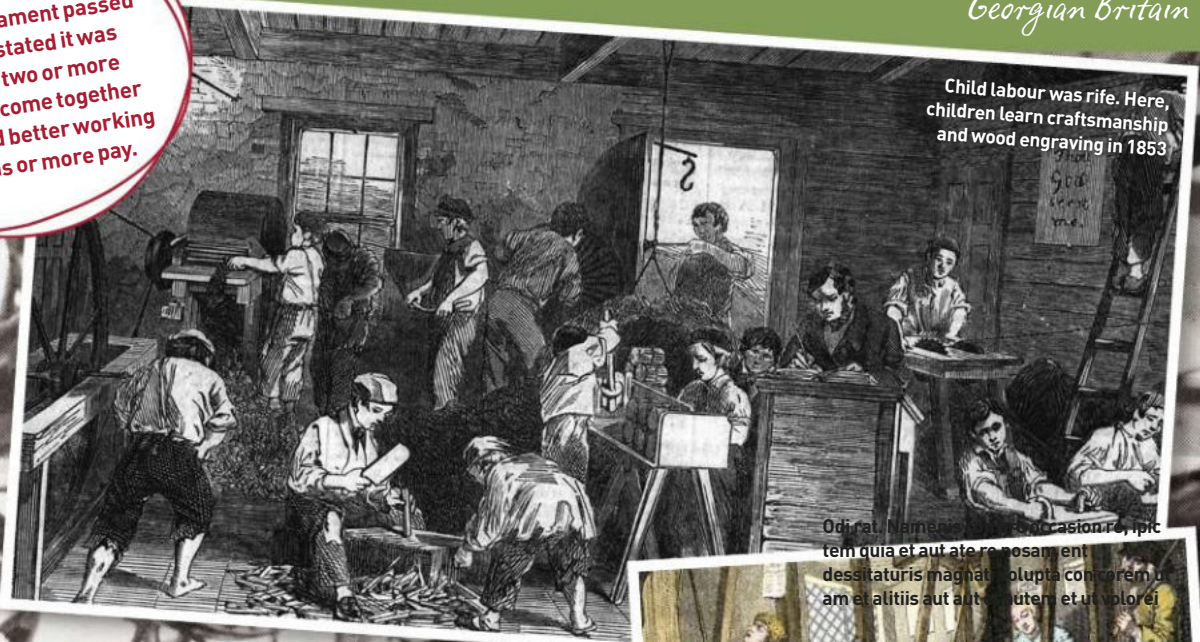
A woolcombing works in Bradford during the late 19th century



The famous Shropshire Iron Bridge, which passes over the River Severn



Combination act
In 1799, parliament passed a law that stated it was illegal for two or more workers to come together and demand better working conditions or more pay.



Child labour was rife. Here, children learn craftsmanship and wood engraving in 1853

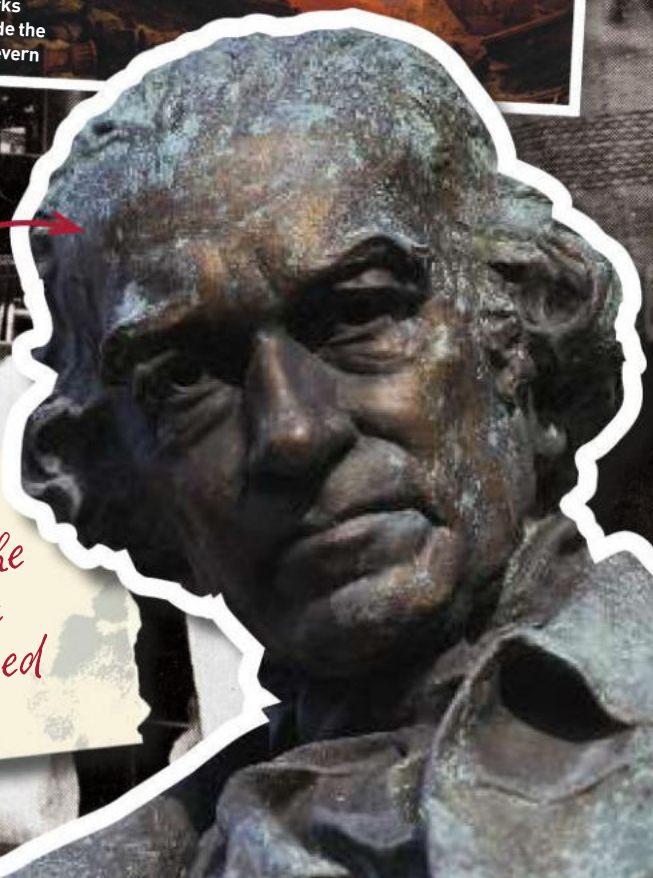


Weaving seen at Spitalfields during the 1700s



The effects of coke smelting from an ironworks alongside the River Severn

James Watt's improvements to the Newcomen steam engine transformed the world



Napoleon at the battle Of Waterloo.
"A soldier will fight long and hard
for a bit of coloured ribbon," he said

In the navy, you can
sail the seven seas, in the
navy, you can put your mind
at ease – or so the song goes.
But I, Admiral Horatio Nelson, lost
my arm, the sight in one eye and
then was shot dead by a
French sniper!

How Napoleon met his Waterloo

A continuous state of war existed in Europe through the Georgian period, and France was Britain's great enemy

Between 1793 and 1815, Britain and France were at war for all but a short interlude of just over a year. The French Revolution propelled France into conflict with the older regimes of Europe. Britain was drawn into the wars in various coalitions with Prussia, Austria and other states. When political power was seized by Napoleon Bonaparte, this struggle for

Europe was bound to continue. He made himself emperor in 1804 and, by that time, the brief peace brought about by the Treaty of Amiens had ended.

Britain's victories in the Napoleonic Wars were at first at sea where Admiral Horatio Nelson proved himself a brilliant exponent of a new form of naval warfare. In the battle of Trafalgar in 1805, although Nelson was killed, his ships destroyed the combined French and Spanish fleet that faced them. Britain had control of the seas.

Napoleon, with victories over Britain's allies at Austerlitz and Jena, continued to dominate Europe. For several years, the only successes against French troops came in the Peninsular War in Spain and Portugal, where a British general named Sir Arthur Wellesley, later the Duke of Wellington, won a number of victories.

In 1812, Napoleon made the biggest misjudgment of his career by invading Russia. Caught by the onset of winter, he was forced to retreat from Moscow and lost hundreds of thousands of his troops. In 1813, he suffered major defeat for the first time at the battle of Leipzig and was forced to abdicate. Exiled to the Mediterranean island of Elba, he refused to stay there. In March 1815, he landed in France and embarked on his 'Hundred Days' campaign. It culminated in the battle of Waterloo, which took place south of Brussels on 18th June 1815. The French lost to a coalition under Wellington and the Prussian general, Blücher. Napoleon was sent to the South Atlantic island of Saint Helena where he died in 1821. The long wars between France and other European powers had finally come to an end.

Nelson's Column, London. Nelson joined the navy at 12 and was a captain by the time he was 20



QUICK QUIZ! Four kings in the Georgian era went by the name of George. Which one is known as the 'mad' king? Find the answer below...

1714–1837
Georgian Britain

➤ Wesley was one of those who spoke out against slavery, and the existence of the slave trade became increasingly a matter that troubled consciences in the 18th century. It was, however, still deeply embedded in the economic life of the nation. Many of the wealthy individuals who built the villas and country houses we still admire today had made their money from plantations run by slave labour. Major cities like Bristol and Liverpool had grown rich on the proceeds of the slave trade. It was not until the 19th century that first the slave trade (1807) and then slavery itself (1833) was abolished within the British Empire.

Empire expands

The century after the Act of Union of 1707, and the creation of Great Britain, saw a new 'British' identity being forged. More Britons became more aware of a wider world. This was an age of discovery. Captain Cook's voyages to the Pacific in the 1760s and 1770s opened up other continents for those who read or heard about them. It was also an age of empire. Although it is not true that, as

one 19th-century historian wrote, Britain acquired an empire "in a fit of absence of mind", expansion was often a consequence of chance and opportunism as much as planning and design. In India, the acquisitive power was a private company, the East India Company, which began by seeking trading markets, but became a political power in its own right. Other territories were accumulated in the aftermath of wars with France and Spain. While colonies were lost, most notably those in America, more were quickly added to a burgeoning empire.

Peterloo massacre
Angry about lack of voters' rights and poor conditions, a crowd of 60–80,000 gathered in Manchester in 1819. A cavalry charge left at least 15 dead and up to 700 injured.

Industrial strength

Britain in 1714 was a largely agricultural nation that defined itself in relation to its European neighbours, particularly France, the ancient enemy. By 1837, it had become the first great industrial nation of modern times and rightly saw itself as a world power. Many of its citizens still lived in terrible poverty. However, a growing middle class was beginning to flex

its political and economic muscle, and an urban working class was coming into existence. Unruliness still bubbled beneath the surface (the pro-Reform riots of the early 1830s proved that) but some of the more violent elements of Georgian society had been tamed. The Victorian age was about to begin. **H**



Captain Cook takes possession of New South Wales. He would later be killed in a fight with Hawaiians

BBC For more about Georgian Britain, visit www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/empire_seapower

Musical messiah

The most famous British composer of the Georgian period was actually a German. George Frideric Handel was born in Halle and came to London aged 27. He became a British subject 15 years later, writing successful operas and choral works.



TOP 10 ARISTOCRATIC FADS

- 1 **Hermits** Hiring a recluse for the garden
- 2 **Panniers** A cage to make ladies' hips look wider
- 3 **Wigs** Bigger the wig, wealthier the wearer
- 4 **Desserts** Always time for an elaborate dessert
- 5 **Lapdogs** An easier alternative to children
- 6 **Performing pig** Apparently, it could spell
- 7 **Shaped beauty spots** Heart on your cheek?
- 8 **Bedlam** Pay a penny to watch mental patients
- 9 **Showpiece homes** Posh houses just for art
- 10 **Exotic beasts** Elephants and tigers especially

Quiz answer p79: Long-distance walking! Professional pedestrians were the David Beckhams of their day.
Quiz answer p83: George III, who was intermittently mentally ill for the last 11 years of his reign.

AD 43–410

410–1066

1067–1485

1485–1603

1603–1714

Georgian Britain
1714–1837

1837–1901

1901–present

ALAMY X3, THINKSTOCK

**Get out of
the house
and make
history come
alive!**

Places to visit

From the glory of Georgian architecture to the shadowy story of Britain's slave trade, there's a host of historical days out to have



Follow characters who were involved in the battle of Culloden

1 ROYAL CRESCENT MUSEUM – BATH

This magnificent Georgian house museum is situated in the centre of the beautiful city of Bath. Not only can you see what life was like for the residents of resplendent houses such as these, but also how the servants lived and worked.

1 Royal Crescent, Bath BA1 2LR

☎ 01225 428126

► www.no1royalcrescent.org.uk

Open 10.30am–5.30pm

(Mondays open 12pm)

£ Family ticket (2 adults, up to 4 children)

£22.00

2 SITE OF THE BATTLE OF CULLODEN – INVERNESS

See the final battlefield in the 1745–46 Jacobite rising, now restored to how it would have looked at the time. At the exciting visitor centre there are films, characters and interactions that help to bring the battle to overthrow the House of Hanover to life.

**Culloden Battlefield Visitor Centre,
Culloden Moor, Inverness,
Highland IV2 5EU**

☎ 0844 493 2159

► www.nts.org.uk/Culloden

Open daily

£ Family ticket £26.00*

3 INTERNATIONAL SLAVERY MUSEUM – LIVERPOOL

As a major slave-trading port, Liverpool is a city immersed in the history of the shameful industry. The museum's interactive displays tell the story of slavery, all the way up to the abolition of the trade and onwards to the present day. Gain an honest insight into this still-controversial subject.

**Albert Dock, Liverpool Waterfront,
Liverpool L3 4AX**

☎ 0151 478 4499

► www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/ism

Open daily 10am–5pm

£ Free admission

4 HMS VICTORY – PORTSMOUTH

Launched in 1765 and best known for its role in the battle of Trafalgar as Admiral Nelson's flagship, the HMS Victory is now home to an impressive naval museum. See where over 800 men used to live, work and fight, as well as where Nelson was killed by a French sniper.

**National Museum of the Royal Navy HM
Naval Base, Portsmouth PO1 3NH**

☎ 023 9283 9766

► www.hms-victory.com

Open daily 10am–6pm (5.30pm November–March)

£ Family ticket £49.60 (2 adults, up to 3 children)

5 IRONBRIDGE – SHROPSHIRE

The birthplace of the industrial revolution and the location of the first ever iron cast bridge, Ironbridge, just outside of Telford in the Midlands, is certainly a Georgian historical hub. With ten different museums to visit, detailing early industry such as furnaces, factories, workshops and canals, you'll be spoiled for choice and the small, picturesque town in its beautiful valley manages to have something for everyone. Learn about how Britain nearly got overtaken by machinery in this quaint little village and watch and talk to the museums' craftsmen and women and costumed demonstrators as they work iron, and fashion china and glass.

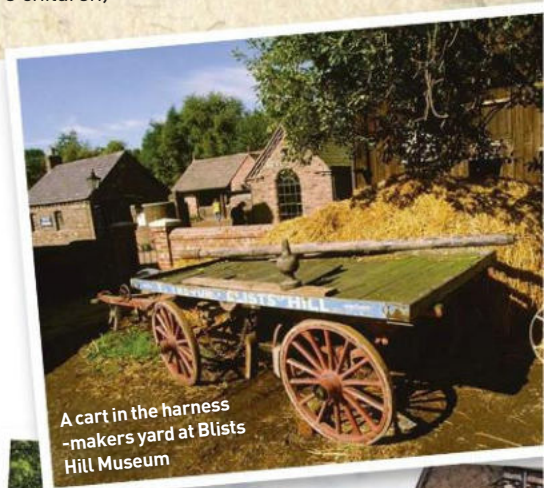
Ironbridge Gorge, Shropshire

☎ 01952 433424

► www.ironbridge.org.uk

Open daily 10am–5pm

£ Charges vary across each of the attractions



A cart in the harness-makers yard at Blists Hill Museum



Visit the Coalport China Museum to see how pot throwing and china painting was done



Culture & society

From early coins to concept art, life and style have come a long way



c100 AD

▲ Birthday parties are held – tablets found in Vindolanda show an invitation from one woman to another.

c55 AD

A wooden amphitheatre is built in Silchester, and is probably used for religious festivals.

c400 AD

► Roman Britons hold dinner parties using platters, dishes, and cutlery, which have been found at Mildenhall.

**AD 43–410
ROMANS**

c200 AD

Animal bones such as cattle, pigs and sheep hint that Roman Britons eat the same meats as modern Brits.

AD 60–70

The Aquae Sulis Roman Baths are built in Bath, and become the centre of social life.



c375 AD

▼ Intricate jewellery is worn by the wealthy classes.

**410–1066
INVADERS**

600–700

Religion is very important. Bell shrines are used to call villagers to prayer.

c900

Music plays a big part in British life, with panpipes, bone whistles and tuning pegs from the era found in York.

c800

Antler combs are used to remove lice from long hair by both men and women.

1180

Stained glass windows are installed at Canterbury Cathedral.

c900

Leather boots and shoes are commonly worn.

1086

Work on the Domesday Book begins.

**1066–1485
MEDIEVAL**

c1390

Geoffrey Chaucer writes *The Canterbury Tales*.

c1200

▼ An early form of chess is played.



1100

Leather is used more. Specialist leatherworks and textile-dyeing workshops are developed.

c1500

Toys advance to items such as the cup-and-ball, spinning tops and juggling balls.

c1400

Children play with pewter toys, such as animals and mini teacups.

1505

► Henry VII commissions many paintings of himself, leading to a rise in the popularity of portraits.



c1500

Around 90 per cent of people live in small villages and rural areas, living mostly on fresh food.

c1520

Jousting is at the height of its popularity – tournaments are held in Henry VIII's palaces.

**1485–1603
EARLY MODERN**

1512

People enjoy sport so much that a law is passed banning certain people from playing it. The working classes must work harder and play less.

1595

15,000 people a week watch plays in London.

c1600
► With candles for light and open fires for heat, fire is a common hazard.



c1730
The Bethlem Royal Hospital for the mentally ill puts its patients on public display for entertainment – thousands visit.

c1830
Dolls' houses and music boxes are the toy of choice.



c1649
Puritan religion takes over and activities such as drunkenness, bear-baiting and 'gatherings of people without permission' are banned.



1760
▲ First-ever celebrity actor, David Garrick reached the height of his fame. He is regularly mobbed by fans.

c1700
Expanding trade routes makes more shopping available. Shop fronts become more elaborate to attract customers.

c1850
Charles Dickens and Robert Louis Stevenson lead the increase in popularity of reading.

1901
The first tins of Heinz Baked Beans go on sale.

1960s
▲ A musical 'British invasion', spreads around the world, led by the Beatles.

1871
The Bank Holiday Act is passed and with the rise of the railways, seaside resorts like Blackpool and Torquay thrive.

1850-1900
Around 80 per cent of people now live in cities.

1992
The Saatchi Gallery unveils Damien Hirst's artwork, *The Physical Impossibility of Death in the Mind of Someone Living*.

1971
The United Kingdom adopts a decimal system for currency.

1603-1714 THE STUARTS

1714-1837 THE GEORGIANS

1837-1901 THE VICTORIANS

1901-2016 MODERN BRITAIN

c1680
Coffee becomes popular, as do coffee shops.

1660
▼ The three-piece suit and necktie is created for King Charles II.

c1760
Industrial revolution begins.

1811
▼ Jane Austen publishes her first novel.

1746
Formal pleasure gardens become more popular with the opening of the exclusive garden at Ranelagh.

1843
The first Christmas cards are sent.

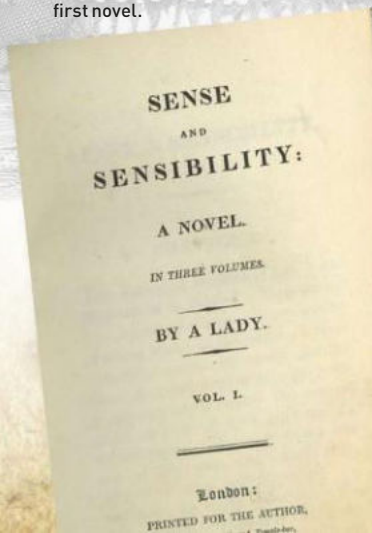
1896
Britain takes part in the first Summer Olympic Games in Athens.

1880
Education becomes mandatory for children up to the age of 10.

1922
The BBC is founded.

1966
▼ England's football team wins the World Cup. They beat West Germany 4-2.

1997
The first Harry Potter book, *The Philosopher's Stone*, is published.





ALAMY

The 19th century saw
great advances in rail
travel and engineering

1837–1901

Victorian Britain

The boom in industry made some people very rich – while the poor were left to suffer in the workhouses

AT A GLANCE



Queen Victoria p90



The introduction of the workhouses p91



The Irish famine p93



Charles Darwin and evolution p93



The expansion of the British empire p94



The boom of steam railways p96

1837–1901

Victorian Britain

WHEN QUEEN VICTORIA came to the throne in 1837, Britain was still largely an agricultural country, but by the end of her reign it was transformed into one dominated by large industrial cities, like Manchester, Leeds, Glasgow and Birmingham. Victorian factories produced huge numbers of manufactured goods and gadgets that found their way into shops and homes. Victorian engineers created machinery to make steel, mine coal and build ships. Industrial production made factory and mine owners very rich, but the people who worked for them were often poor and had to live in filthy, unhygienic conditions. Slum housing was a breeding ground for serious diseases like cholera, tuberculosis and typhus. Journalists, writers and artists all helped reveal the grim truth of how working people had to live and the long working hours, low

pay and dangerous conditions they faced. The Victorians had a strong sense of religion and morality. They took poverty very seriously, though they thought many poor people had only themselves to blame. These 'undeserving' poor people had to go into workhouses, where they were made to work long hours in return for basic food and

clothing. But the Victorians also introduced new regulations for working hours and conditions in factories and mines, they built proper sewers and established better hospitals. Victorian cities appointed health inspectors, laid out parks for fresh air and exercise, and provided healthcare advice for mothers and families. Even so, when the second

My posh parents may have thought nursing was beneath me but I soon proved them wrong! They wanted me to marry a rich man – how dull. I prefer looking after wounded soldiers.



Nurses in training

Florence Nightingale was born to wealthy British parents in Italy. She became famous for nursing the wounded soldiers during the Crimean War (1853–56). She was sent to Turkey with a team of nurses, where their efforts greatly reduced the mortality rate. In 1860, she set up the Nightingale Training School for nurses in London.



Victoria was 81 when she died – the average life expectancy at the time was just 48

Queen Victoria

The death of her husband left her distraught, but Victoria still managed to be a very popular queen

Queen Victoria reigned for 63 years – the longest of any ruler in British history. Initially, people found her headstrong and stubborn, but then she fell in love and found happiness with her German cousin, Prince Albert. They had nine children and liked to present their happy family life as an ideal, which all families should copy. However, their eldest son, Bertie, the Prince of Wales, thought his parents were too strict and often argued with them. In 1861, Prince Albert died and Queen Victoria was heartbroken. She went into deep mourning and for years refused to appear in public. Many people thought that it was hardly worth having a queen if they never saw her. They even gossiped that she was in love with her Scottish servant, John Brown.

However, when she did start appearing in public again, she found she was still very popular. In 1877, she was made Empress of India and, in 1887 and 1897, the whole empire celebrated the Golden and Diamond Jubilees of her reign.

A number of her children married into the various royal families of Europe, so that, by the time she died in January 1901, she was grandmother to many of Europe's rulers.

Timeline

1837–1840

1837
Victoria becomes queen on 20 June, at the age of 18

1838
Slavery ends in the British empire on 1 August.

1838
Charles Dickens publishes the novel *Oliver Twist*

1838
The London–Birmingham line kick-starts the railway boom

1840
Parliament brings in free vaccinations for the poor

1840
The penny post is introduced. All mail costs one penny

The workhouses

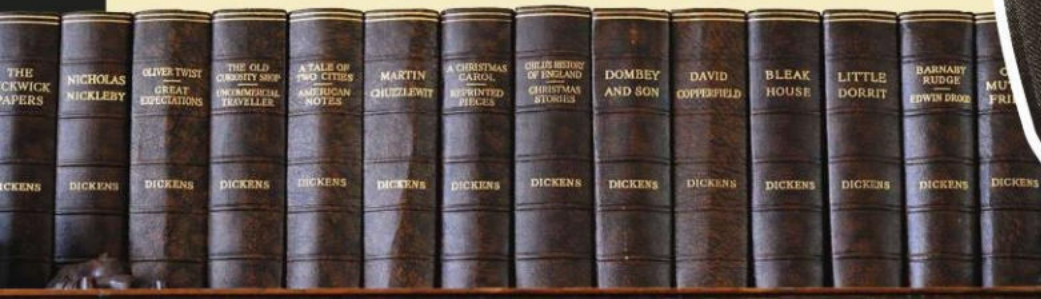
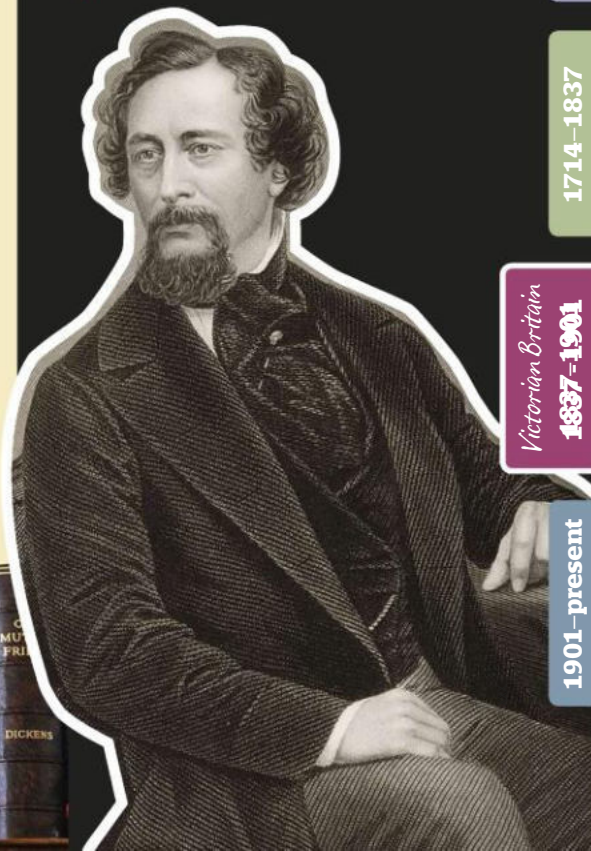
Conditions in the workhouses were intentionally bad, often worse than prison, in order to discourage people from claiming poor relief

Help for the poor ('poor relief') was run by local parishes. At first, parishes just doled money out to people who needed it, but the industrial revolution forced so many people into poverty that the parishes often couldn't cope. Many skilled craftsmen lost their jobs to new machines, and workers in the new factories were so badly paid they could hardly feed their own families. In any case, many Victorians thought poor people were just lazy and should be forced to work. The Poor Law Amendment Act (1834) allowed parishes to club together in 'Poor Law Unions' to build workhouses, which were run rather like prisons, with uniforms, hard work, strict rules and very plain food. Inmates even lost the right to vote. The idea was to make workhouses so bad that people would do any work they

could find rather than face the shame of going into them. Even people too old or ill to work had to go into the workhouse. There would be no more handouts. Most Victorians saw nothing wrong with this system, thinking it was perfectly fair.

However, then they started to learn what really went on in the Union Workhouses. One workhouse manager starved the inmates so badly they tried to gnaw marrow out of old bones. Charles Dickens set *Oliver Twist* in a cruel workhouse for orphans. Slowly, workhouses began to take better care of their inmates, some of them even developed into hospitals. But the fear and shame of 'going into the workhouse' lasted right through the Victorian age and beyond.

Poor beginnings
Having been sent to work in a factory as a child, Charles Dickens knew all the horrors of the workhouse and campaigned throughout his life for children's rights.



1837–1901 Victorian Britain

QUICK QUIZ: How many copies did Mrs Beeton's book sell in its first year? Find the answer on p97...

➤ Boer War broke out in 1899, huge numbers of volunteers from industrial cities were found to be medically unfit to serve in the army.

The middle class

More and more Victorians fitted into the new middle classes. They usually had desk jobs in offices as managers or clerks, or else joined a profession, such as law, journalism, banking or engineering. The middle classes employed large numbers of servants as cooks, butlers, maids and valets. By the time Queen Victoria died in 1901, domestic service was one of the biggest forms of work in the country. The richest of the middle classes lived very comfortably indeed. The lower end of the middle class lived in smaller but smart houses in the new suburbs and took the train or omnibus (a public horse and carriage) to work. At the

start of Queen Victoria's reign, railways were new and rather scary – many people only decided trains were safe and respectable after the queen travelled on one. In the early years of her reign, there was a mad rush to lay railway tracks between London and other big cities; by the end of her reign, shorter railway lines also ran out to the suburbs. London and Glasgow even had underground railways.

Man of the house

Victorian Britain was very much a man's world. The husband was in charge of his wife, his children and his servants. Until the law was changed in 1883, he was even the

legal owner of all his wife's property. The Victorians believed that men and women should operate in separate spheres: men should go out to work and run the economy and the country while women should run the home. One of the most widely-read books of this time was *Mrs Beeton's Book of Household Management*, which gave women

instructions on housekeeping. Some Victorians also believed women were weaker, less serious and less intelligent than men. ➤



Isambard Kingdom Brunel

From bridges and tunnels to boats and trains – Brunel's influence stretched far and wide and his legacy is still visible today

Isambard Kingdom Brunel was an amazingly talented railway and shipping engineer and inventor. He started out by building a tunnel under the Thames at Rotherhithe and the beautifully elegant Clifton Suspension Bridge in Bristol.

From trains...

Brunel went on to design the Great Western Railway, which ran from London to the South West using a broader, more stable track than other railways. He designed Paddington station and Bristol Temple Meads, and all the bridges and tunnels, including a sloping tunnel nearly two miles long through Box Hill in Wiltshire and a spectacular double-span bridge over the River Tamar at Saltash in

Cornwall. He even designed an 'atmospheric railway' along the Devon coast, using a vacuum to propel the trains, but it proved too costly. Brunel hoped other companies would use his broad gauge track, but instead their narrow gauge became the standard size.

...To ships

Brunel's *Great Western* was the first steam-powered transatlantic passenger ship, while the *Great Britain*, launched in 1843, had an iron hull and a screw propeller instead of a paddle wheel. These ships were revolutionary. Brunel also designed the *Great Eastern*, the biggest ship in the world. However, it ran into problems and never took passengers, though it did lay a telegraph cable across the Atlantic Ocean.

Brunel was a heavy smoker and died 10 days after suffering a stroke in 1859



Timeline 1841–1901

- 1841 Sir Robert Peel forms a Conservative government
- 1845 Irish Potato famine starts in September
- 1848 Irish nationalist John Mitchel is arrested for treason
- 1851 The Great Exhibition opens at the Crystal Palace
- 1854 Britain and France declare war on Russia, entering the Crimean War
- 1861 Prince Albert dies from typhoid aged just 42

The Irish famine

From 1845–1852, around 1 million Irish starved to death and another million emigrated to more prosperous countries

Although Victorian Britain created a lot of wealth, some areas were very poor, including much of Ireland. Many Irish people could not afford a varied diet and lived almost entirely on potatoes. In 1845, however, disaster struck: a disease destroyed the whole potato crop and the poor people of Ireland faced starvation. The British government organised a famine relief operation, but they didn't hand out free food: they said the real problem was that the Irish were extremely poor. If they had had more money they would not have

Starving peasants beg to get into workhouses as shown in this drawing from *The Life and Times of Queen Victoria* (1887)



depended so heavily on potatoes. Instead they provided work schemes that enabled the Irish to earn enough money to buy food.

Unfortunately, the work was far too heavy for people who were already desperately hungry and it made the situation even worse. Thousands of people starved to death in the Irish famine, and many of those who survived left Ireland to seek better lives in America, Australia or South Africa. Many Irish people still blame the British government for not doing more to help them during the famine.

Charles Darwin

The man who changed the way we view life on Earth

Charles Darwin (1809–1882) was a British naturalist and a pioneer of the theory of evolution. He developed the idea of natural selection to explain how animal life changes and evolves, as some species and varieties survive and others die out. He developed his ideas on a voyage on HMS *Beagle*, where he saw how animals of the same species living on different islands had developed in different ways. He collected huge numbers of specimens, to see how they differed. He concluded that life on Earth does not stay the same for ever: it evolves by natural selection. Those that adapt, survive; those that don't, die out. He put his ideas in a book, *On the Origin of Species*, which created huge controversy when it was published in 1859 because it challenged the story of creation in the Bible. Darwin also suggested humans might have evolved from apes, but scientists are still working out exactly how this occurred.



The Great Exhibition of 1851

Prince Albert came up with the idea of the Great Exhibition as a chance for the empire to show off its modern technology. It was housed in the Crystal Palace with over 100,000 objects on display.



1867
The Second Reform Act virtually **doubles the electorate**

1872
Voting by **secret ballot** is introduced

1879
Tay Bridge collapses killing all 75 train passengers on board

1880
It is compulsory that **children under 10 go to school**

1883
A husband no longer **owns his wife's belongings** by law

1894
Parish councils are created for parishes over 300 people

1899
The Second Boer War begins

1901
Queen Victoria dies on 22 January. Edward VII is king

The British empire

Under Queen Victoria's reign approximately 400 million people were added to the British empire – making it the largest in history

Many Victorians were convinced they should rule the world. The British empire covered a huge area of the globe, including Canada, India, Burma, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, vast areas of Africa and islands in the Pacific, the Caribbean and the Mediterranean. The British believed they had a duty to bring western technology, medicine, education and law to all these different parts of the world.

Trade and the empire

The empire began with trading companies buying and selling goods. These companies became very powerful: in Africa they took over huge areas of land from their local chiefs, and the East India Company ended up ruling much of India. The British went to war to force China to accept the British trade in opium, while the British mining companies in South Africa helped to start the Boer War.

The British also sent missionaries around the empire to spread Christianity and to run schools and hospitals. They weren't always welcome. In India, Muslims and Hindus were so suspicious that missionaries were trying to attack their beliefs that, in 1857, Indian soldiers mutinied and started a huge uprising against British rule.

In some areas, like Canada, Australia and South Africa, large numbers of British people emigrated to settle and farm the land that had been taken from the local inhabitants. In Tasmania, these settlers completely wiped out the local population. By the end of the century, many of these British colonies were starting to act independently and rule themselves.

The British firmly believed that the people of the empire were better off being

ruled by Britain than by anyone else: under British rule, they were able to get a good education and a career. But by the end of the century, many of these educated colonial people were beginning to ask why they could not run their countries themselves.

Facing war

The British sent troops to China, West Africa and Sudan in a bid to extend their empire. They were in for a shock as some natives were excellent at defending themselves – the Zulu people of South Africa destroyed one British invasion force, and twice the people of Afghanistan cut invading British troops to pieces. The longest and most difficult war was with the Boers, the Dutch farmers of South Africa, in the two Boer Wars

(1880–81, 1899–1902).

At the end of the century, more than a quarter of the world's population

lived in the empire. But as a result of the wars, the British were beginning to doubt whether they could sustain their empire for much longer.

More than a quarter of the world's population lived in the empire

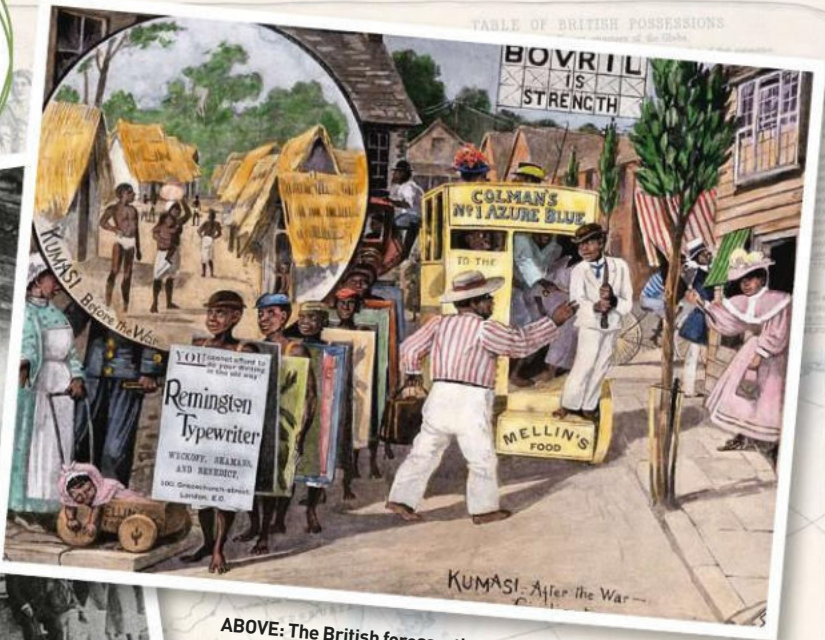
Formed in 1895, the Indian Army was a vital part of Britain's defence system.



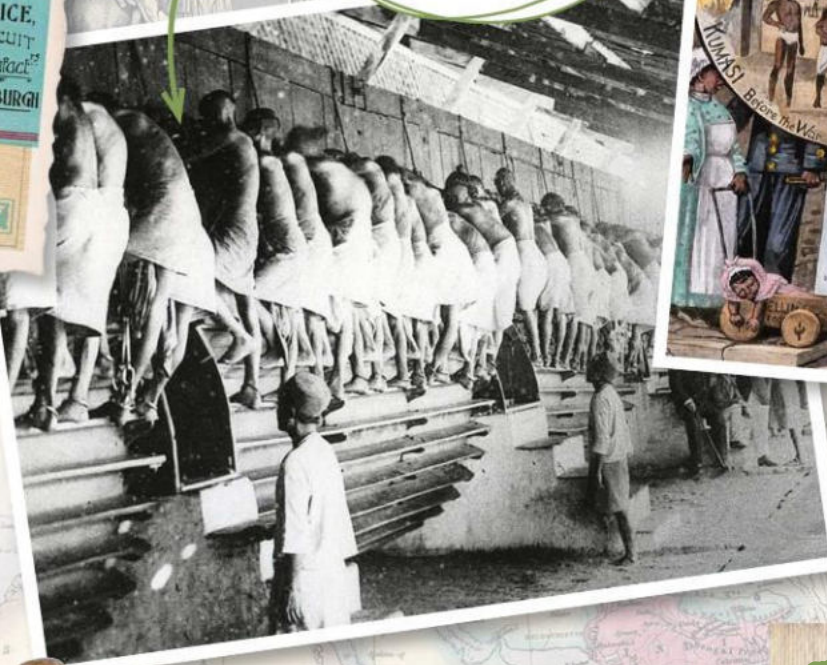
ABOVE: The extent of the British empire is shown in red in this map, made towards the end of Victoria's reign



On the treadmill
The British introduced treadmills in prisons, like this one at Rangoon, in order to generate power and keep inmates occupied.



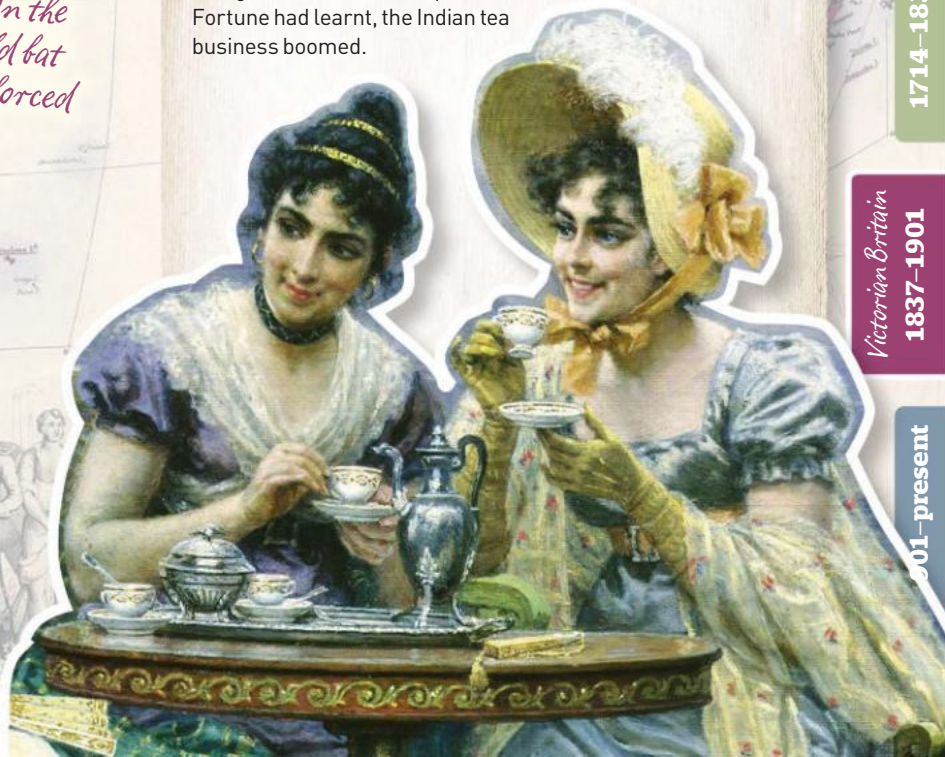
ABOVE: The British foresaw their rule would change the city of Kumasi in Ghana from straw huts to thriving centre of business



Time for tea

The British love a good cup of tea, but importing it all from China was proving costly, so they decided to try and grow it in India

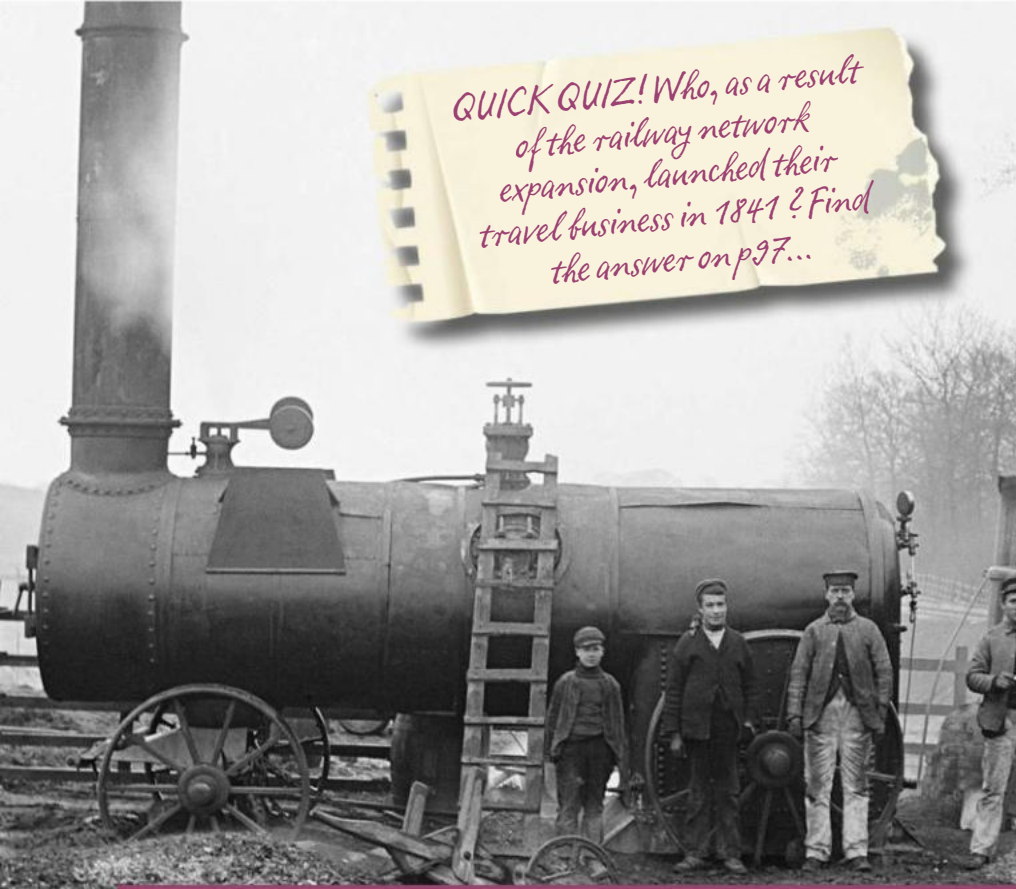
In order to try and break the Chinese monopoly on tea, Robert Fortune, a Scottish botanist, was sent to China in 1848 by the East India Company to smuggle out some tea plants. Most of the plants he brought over died. However, the British then discovered a variety of tea that was endemic to northern India. Using the Chinese techniques that Fortune had learnt, the Indian tea business boomed.



International sports
As an attempt to gain popularity in the new colonies, the English introduced their favourite game – cricket. While their intentions may have been good, the sport often highlighted differences. In the Caribbean, the Brits would bat while the natives would be forced to bowl and field.



QUICK QUIZ! Who, as a result of the railway network expansion, launched their travel business in 1841? Find the answer on p97...



The railways

Although railways existed before the Victorians, there was a boom during the 1840s resulting in 2,441 miles of railway in Britain by 1845

Before railways, the fastest means of transport had been a horse, meaning travel was a slow and tedious process. The vast expansion of the railway network during this era enabled steam locomotives to transport thousands of people, relatively quickly and comfortably, for work, school or pleasure.

Early developments

The earliest steam engines, like *Puffing Billy*, which is on show in the Science Museum in London, ran on tracks to carry heavy goods like coal or iron. The first railway lines opened in 1825 between two industrial towns, Stockton and Darlington, and ran the *Locomotion* steam engine, designed by George Stephenson. When a line was planned between Manchester and Liverpool, Stephenson's new engine, the *Rocket*, won the competition to find the fastest engine. Sadly, when the line opened there was an accident and the *Rocket* killed William Huskisson, an MP.

Soon there was a craze for building railways. There was plenty of work for the 'navigators' ('navvies' for short) who actually dug the railway cuttings and tunnels – many of them were Irish labourers coming to England to look for work. Hundreds of companies were set up, building lots of railway lines and waiting for the money to roll in. They thought railways were a sure-fire bet for getting rich. The richest of these railway builders was George Hudson, who became known as the 'railway king'. But there were too many new railways and not all of them made money. This meant people stopped investing and many railway builders lost their money, including Hudson himself. After that, lines were only built if they would definitely make a profit. Initially, railway firms expected to be

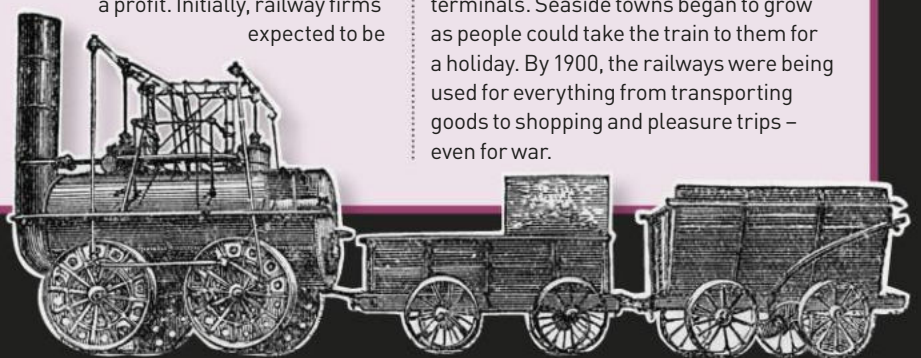
carrying goods, not passengers, so some passengers wanting to travel were put in open carriages.

Travelling in style

But then companies started designing proper carriages – with varying degrees of luxury for first, second and third class. Different companies competed to have the smartest carriages. Their lines came into different London terminals and they built grand hotels there for their passengers – the hotel at St Pancras was like a palace. They also provided bookstalls and cafes for passengers on station platforms. In 1863, the world's first underground railway, the Metropolitan line, was built to link up some of these big London terminals. Seaside towns began to grow as people could take the train to them for a holiday. By 1900, the railways were being used for everything from transporting goods to shopping and pleasure trips – even for war.



St Pancras station became one of the largest train stations in the UK



Puffing Billy, the first ever locomotive, was built in 1813–14 by William Hedley

➤ This was why they began reforming factory conditions by cutting the hours women and children were allowed to work, and why many men didn't want women to get a proper education. These attitudes changed, but only very slowly. Schools and colleges for women were opened and women won the right to qualify as doctors, though only after a long struggle. Florence Nightingale's famous nursing work made nursing and midwifery respectable professions for women. New technology also opened up opportunities for young women. By the

end of the century they could find work as typists, telephone operators, or in one of the brand new department stores.

It's all child's play

At first the Victorians saw children as miniature adults, very useful for dangerous work like climbing chimneys to clean them or crawling under moving machinery in factories. But some Victorians, like the writer Charles Dickens and the reformer Lord Shaftesbury, said this was cruel and that children should be treated kindly.

Above all, they should be allowed

to go to school. At first, most schools were run by the churches. But in 1870, the government said all children should go to school, and started training teachers and building new schools. Middle-class parents often didn't see much of their children – the children had their own separate nurseries with a nanny to look after them, and boys would go off to boarding school when they were seven years old. The Victorians also produced some of the first children's literature: *Alice in Wonderland*, *Treasure Island* and *The Secret Garden*.

The start of modern politics

The modern political parties developed in Victorian times: the Conservatives, Liberals and, at the end of the period, the Labour Party. The two most famous Victorian prime ministers were William Gladstone (Liberal) and Benjamin Disraeli (Conservative). Gladstone believed the government should help people improve themselves; Disraeli believed in expanding Britain's empire. The Victorians believed that people needed to earn the right to vote in elections. Working men campaigned for the vote in the Chartist movement. Later, they set up their own political group, the Labour Party, to speak for them in parliament. By 1901, many working men and all women still did not have the vote.

The Victorians took their religious beliefs seriously. Thousands of new churches were built to cope with expanding populations, and missionaries took the Christian gospel to all the continents of the Earth. But some Victorians challenged the church, especially after Darwin published his book *On the Origin of Species*, which put forward the theory of evolution and caused considerable controversy. Even so, most Victorians went to church regularly and even joked that Britain was so wealthy that God must be an Englishman! **H**

BBC For more about Victorian Britain, visit www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/victorians



Bedtime stories

*As educating children became more of a priority, there was a big increase in the amount of literature written for children. Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*, first published as a serial in a comic, is one of the most dramatised novels ever.*

TOP 10

VICTORIAN NOVELS

(in no particular order...)

- 1 **Great Expectations** Charles Dickens
- 2 **Wuthering Heights** Emily Brontë
- 3 **Treasure Island** Robert Louis Stevenson
- 4 **Jane Eyre** Charlotte Brontë
- 5 **The Mill on the Floss** George Eliot

- 6 **Alice's Adventures in Wonderland** Lewis Carroll
- 7 **The Picture of Dorian Gray** Oscar Wilde
- 8 **The Jungle Book** Rudyard Kipling
- 9 **Vanity Fair** William Makepeace Thackeray
- 10 **Agnes Grey** Anne Brontë

Quiz answer p92: 60,000 copies were sold in 1861, with an estimated 2 million being sold by 1868.
Quiz answer p96: Thomas Cook. His first holiday was a day trip for 500 campaigners to Loughborough.

**Get out of
the house
and make
history come
alive!**

Places to visit

Live the high life in glasshouses or slum it in the workhouse
– these fantastic days out will give a real insight into Victorian life



Edinburgh's Royal
Botanic Garden

1 ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN (GLASSHOUSES) – EDINBURGH

The Temperate Palms Glasshouse was built in 1858. In a time when foreign lands were of huge curiosity to Britons, glasshouses such as these popped up to give a greater cultural understanding. Just a mile outside the city, the gardens (admission free) provide over 70 acres of tranquillity.

Inverleith Row, Edinburgh EH3 5LR

☎ **0131 248 2909**

► www.rbge.org.uk/the-gardens

Open daily 10am–5pm (3pm November–January, 4pm February and October)

£ Glasshouse: adults £5.50, children free

2 THE WEAVERS' TRIANGLE – LANCASHIRE

This area was once the heart of Burnley's textile industry. In the visitor centre you can discover how they made cotton, have a go at weaving and visit a Victorian schoolroom. The original steam engine from 1887 has been restored and can be seen in action.

**85 Manchester Road, Burnley,
Lancashire BB11 1JZ**

☎ **01282 452403**

► www.weaverstriangle.co.uk

Open Saturday–Tuesday, 2pm–4pm
(April–September), weekends only in
October

£ Admission free

3 FOX TALBOT MUSEUM – WILTSHIRE

Visit the home of Henry Fox Talbot, the man credited with the invention of photography. See the first ever negative, taken in 1835, and follow the story of this intriguing character and his world-changing creation.

Lacock, near Chippenham SN15 2LG

☎ **01249 730459**

► www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lacock

Open daily 10.30am–5.30pm (4pm
November–February)

£ Family ticket from £24.40 (2 adults,
up to 3 children)

4 LLECHWEDD SLATE CAVERNS – GWYNEDD

A former slate mine, this popular museum takes its visitors underground to the old working mines. With over 25 miles of connecting chambers, the fascinating tour shows just how dangerous the conditions were for workers in the 1800s.

Blaenau Ffestiniog, Gwynedd LL41 3NB

☎ **01766 830306**

► www.llechwedd-slate-caverns.co.uk

Open daily 9am–5.30pm (March–Jan)

£ Admission £20.00 (£5.00 discount for
families with one child)

5 SOUTHWELL WORKHOUSE – NOTTINGHAM

The National Trust saved this workhouse after it was potentially going to be turned into a block of flats – and they've certainly put it to good use. With the help of an introductory film and audio guides, explore this authentic workhouse, meet characters from real archive records and uncover the stigma that came with being a poor Victorian. Visit the segregated work yards, day rooms, dormitories and masters' quarters. Then go out into the recreated 19th-century garden and discover what the inmates would have eaten. They also put on lots of special events days, check out their website for more information.

Upton Road, Southwell NG25 0PT

☎ **01636 817260**

► www.nationaltrust.org.uk/workhouse-southwell

Open Wednesday–Sunday, 2pm–5pm

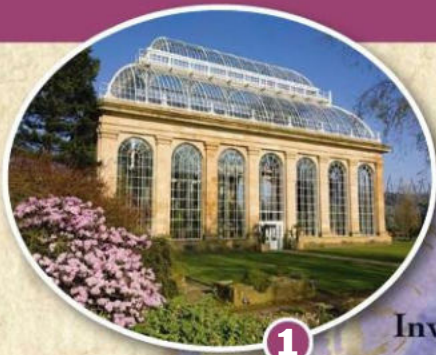
£ Family ticket £20.00*



Explore the working garden to discover
what they ate in Victorian times



Find out what daily life
would have been like
for workhouse inmates



1

Inverness

Aberdeen

SCOTLAND

Glasgow

Edinburgh



Newcastle upon Tyre

Carlisle

N. IRELAND

Belfast

ENGLAND

York

Burnley



2



5

Chester

Nottingham



4



Birmingham

Cambridge

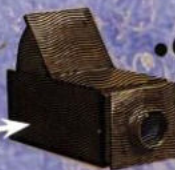
WALES

Cardiff

Oxford

London

Bristol



3



Southampton

Dover

Falmouth

AD 43–410

410–1066

1066–1485

1485–1603

1603–1714

1714–1837

Victorian Britain
1837–1901

1901–present



SUPERSTOCK The 20th century saw rapid advances in technology and a dramatic increase in leisure time for many families

1901–present

Modern Britain

The 20th century was marked by two world wars. Later, as the British empire ended, the UK moved into a more peaceful, racially diverse state

AT A GLANCE



The labour movement

p102

VOTES FOR WOMEN



Women's suffrage p103



End of the empire p104



The troubles in Northern Ireland p105



The two world wars p106

Technology p108

1901-present

Modern Britain

MODERN BRITAIN HAS changed breathtakingly fast. When the 20th century started, Queen Victoria was still on the throne and most transport was pulled by horses; by the end of the century travel by road and air was quite normal, and we are now even used to satellite technology in our everyday lives.

Even before the First World War, big changes were happening. The government fought a huge battle with the House of Lords to pass a budget that would tax the rich to pay for pensions for old people, so they would no longer have to go into the workhouse. The Suffragettes were

demanding votes for women, and in Ireland nationalists were demanding Home Rule – the right to govern themselves. Trade unions were staging a series of major strikes to improve the appalling pay and working conditions that many workers had to put up with. All of these conflicts were put on hold in August 1914, when Britain entered the First World War.

Entrenched suffering

The British were badly caught out by the First World War. They had expected a fairly short war, but it dragged on for four years, mostly in trench warfare. ➤

MY HUSBAND AND I... (sorry, force of habit). I am your current Queen, Elizabeth II, and I've been on the throne for 64 years now. Not literally, obviously. One would suffer awful pins and needles were that to be the case.



The grave of a boy seaman who died of Spanish flu in 1919

Non-Spanish flu

It's estimated that the 1918 flu pandemic killed 50–100 million people across the globe – between 3–6 per cent of the global population. Wartime censors limited the news of fatalities to aid morale, but the Spanish press did report it, creating the impression that Spain was hardest hit.



The labour movement

The rights of ordinary, working people could no longer be ignored

Trade unions started in Victorian times, but the law made it difficult for them to do much. The 1926 General Strike failed and, in the Thirties, industries like shipbuilding completely collapsed. Workers from the shipyards in Jarrow staged a hunger march to London to draw attention to people's suffering.

The big change came in the Second World War. People thought they deserved a better world, and in 1942, Sir William Beveridge wrote a report that proposed free health care for all, secondary schooling for all children, and a whole range of benefits as part of a welfare state. The Labour Party said they would put Beveridge's ideas into action and, in 1945, they were elected to do just that.

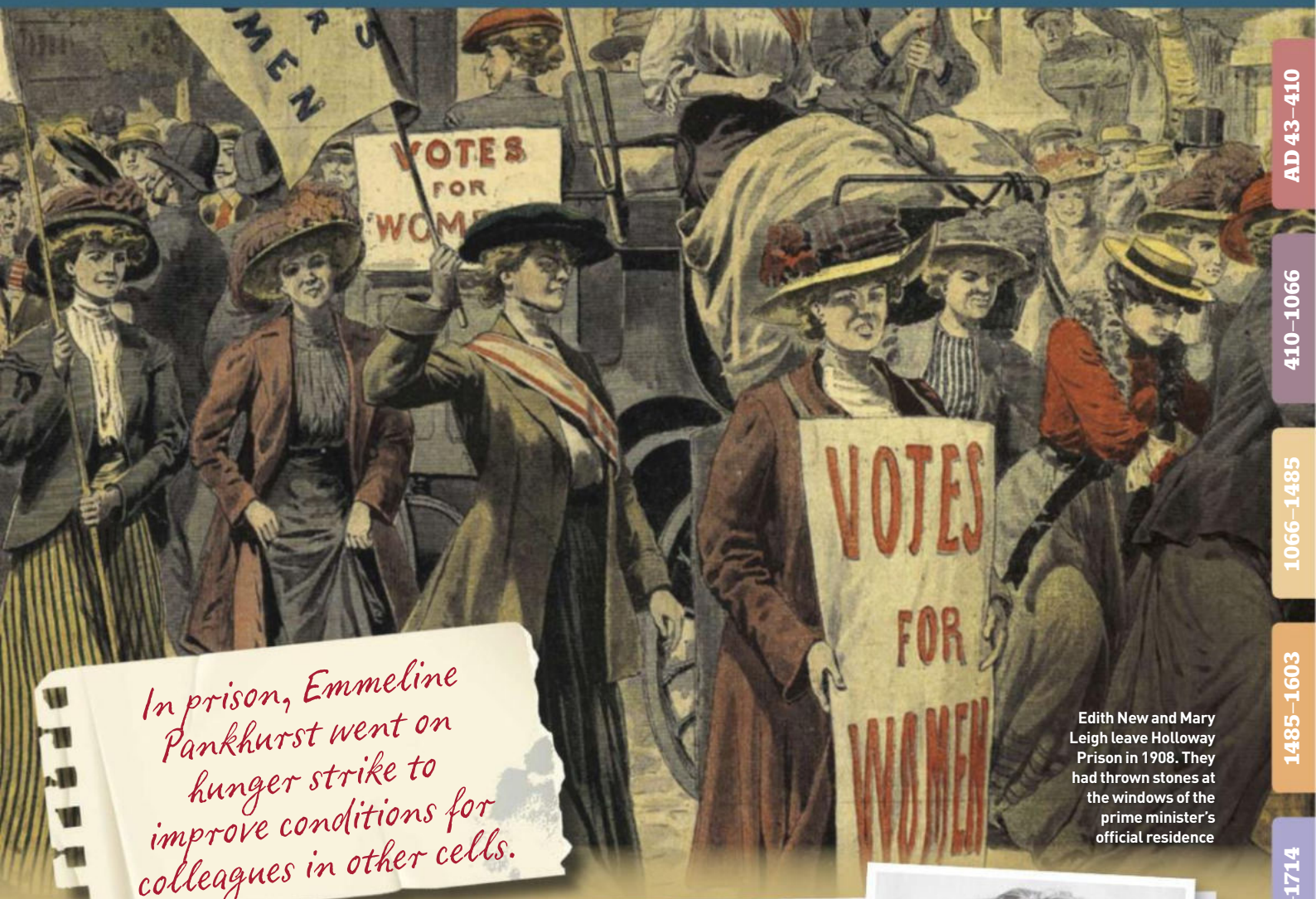
The Labour government set up the National Health Service and took over all the major industries. But by the 1970s, the unions seemed more powerful than the government. Mrs Thatcher's Conservative government took away many of the unions' rights and, in 1984–5, it defeated the Miners' Strike, which was protesting against plans to close down coalmines. In 1997, Labour was elected under Tony Blair, but this was 'New Labour', which wanted as little as possible to do with the 'Old' Labour movement.

Timeline 1901–1918

- 1901 Queen Victoria dies after reigning since 1837
- 1901 Edward VII dies, to be succeeded by his son, George V
- 1912 Titanic sinks on her maiden voyage with a loss of 1,500 lives
- 1914 First World War. Britain declares war on Germany
- 1918 First World War ends. Peace terms imposed on Germany
- 1918 Women over 30 are given the right to vote



The Jarrow Marchers of 1936 walked nearly 300 miles to parliament



AD 43–410

410–1066

1066–1485

1485–1603

1603–1714

1714–1837

1837–1901

Modern Britain
1901–present

In prison, Emmeline Pankhurst went on hunger strike to improve conditions for colleagues in other cells.

Edith New and Mary Leigh leave Holloway Prison in 1908. They had thrown stones at the windows of the prime minister's official residence

Women's suffrage

The right for women to vote was a battle that would eventually turn violent

By 1900, women had gained equality with men in some ways, but they hadn't yet won the right to vote in general elections. A group known as Suffragists ('suffrage' is another word for the vote) campaigned peacefully for the vote but, in 1903, a more militant group, known as the Suffragettes, started to campaign, disrupting public meetings, committing vandalism and even planting bombs. The government reacted forcibly: women were arrested and often brutally treated. When Suffragettes went on hunger strike, they were force-fed, using a rubber tube forced down their nose or throat. One Suffragette, Emily Davison, was even killed by a horse at the Epsom Derby, possibly because she was trying to

attach a Suffragette banner to the bridle of the king's horse. Davison had already been jailed nine times for her protests.

The Suffragettes were led by Mrs Emmeline Pankhurst. Although her slogan was 'Votes for Women', she only wanted women to have votes on the same terms as men. Many working men did not have the vote, so Mrs Pankhurst didn't want working women to have the vote either. When her own daughter, Sylvia, called for votes for working women, Mrs Pankhurst threw her out of the Suffragettes.

Many men did support the Suffragettes, but others thought the militant campaign showed that women were too unstable and unpredictable to be entrusted with the vote.



Despite her noble intentions, some criticised the actions of Emmeline Pankhurst's Suffragettes, which included arson and even throwing an axe

However the First World War showed just what women could do, standing in for men in the factories, munitions works, or on the railways. Mrs Millicent Fawcett, leader of the Suffragists, negotiated with the government and, in 1918, women over 30 were given the right to vote. Ten years later, women finally got the right to vote at 21, the same age as men.

1901–present

Modern Britain

➤ The huge losses, often for very little gain, shook people's confidence in their leaders. Some 20,000 men were killed on the disastrous first day of the battle of the Somme in 1916. At home, women took men's places in the factories and the field, and at the end of the war they were rewarded by being given the right to vote.



1,600,000 women joined the workforce between 1914 and 1918, across all walks of life

Irish nationalists staged a rising in Dublin at Easter 1916, and after the war they launched a full-scale rebellion that forced the British to pull out of Ireland, except for the six counties of Northern Ireland, which remained part of the UK.

The years after the First World War were very difficult, especially in the industrial areas. In 1926, Britain's miners went on strike for better pay and the whole trade union movement came out with them in a huge General Strike. However, the government called on troops, police and volunteers to keep essential services going and the General Strike was defeated. The 1930s were even worse because the world economy collapsed in what was called the Great Depression. Industrial production

Big dip
Britain's Great Depression lasted from 1918 until the start of the Second World War, some would argue. The country's economic output fell by 25 per cent between 1918 and 1921 alone.

virtually stopped, thousands were thrown out of work and faced genuine hunger. Some people turned to the new extremist political parties, like the Communists and the Fascists.

Even the monarchy seemed to let the country down, when King Edward VIII abdicated so he could marry the American divorcee, Wallis Simpson.

When Hitler began taking over parts of Europe, most British people were uneasy but didn't think it was necessary to fight him. That changed in 1939 when Hitler invaded Poland and Britain declared war. The Germans soon defeated the British troops and their French allies in France and looked set to invade Britain. However the new prime minister, Winston Churchill, defied them and the Royal Air Force was ➤

The end of the empire

Despite the victory of the Allies in the Second World War, much of Britain's global prestige and wealth had been eroded



492 Jamaicans sailed to Britain on SS Empire Windrush in 1948, looking for work. They settled in Brixton, London

After the First World War, the British empire was bigger than ever: it took over former German colonies in Africa and former Turkish territories in the Middle East. In 1924, there was even a British Empire Exhibition at Wembley. But the empire was getting weaker. Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa were all governing themselves and many in India thought they should too. Mahatma Gandhi led a campaign of non-violent protest to put pressure on the British to leave India. At the start of the Second World War,

fighting battles across the globe, it was hard to think of the British as the empire's ruling people. At Singapore in 1942, a whole British and Commonwealth army surrendered to the Japanese. Although colonial people helped Britain win the war, they thought they should be allowed to have their independence afterwards. India and Pakistan became independent in 1947 and, in the 1950s and 1960s, Britain pulled out of Africa.

The British replaced the empire with a much looser Commonwealth of Nations. Many people from Britain's colonies came to live in Britain. At first, some British people opposed this immigration and there were violent fights. But gradually these ethnic communities settled into British life and became a normal part of the scene.

Timeline 1922–present



QUICK QUIZ: In the battle of Britain, which British aircraft shot down the most German craft? Find the answer on page 109...

Concorde made its maiden supersonic flight in 1969, with its first commercial flight for British Airways following in 1976



Hello goodbye!
We fab four Liverpooldians are the Beatles, you know. We made our first single in 1962 and sold hundreds of millions of records before we let it be in 1970. We're the biggest band of all time, yeah yeah yeah!

Breaking the sound barrier

Concorde, a joint project undertaken by Britain and France, was an air liner that cut the journey time from London to New York from 7-8 hours to 3.5 hours.



THEY THINK IT'S ALL OVER! In 1966 England won the football World Cup at Wembley Stadium, London. Geoff Hurst scored a hat-trick as England beat West Germany 4-2 in the final.



The troubles in Northern Ireland

Terrorism within the modern United Kingdom

After the First World War, most of Ireland became independent, but the Protestant people of Ulster chose to stay in the United Kingdom. Some Irish nationalists were angry and even fought a war against the new Irish government for allowing it to happen, but they were unable to stop it. In 1968-69, trouble broke out and British troops arrived to restore order.

The IRA planted bombs and shot people to try and force the British to withdraw from Northern Ireland. In 1972, British soldiers opened fire on a peaceful protest march and 13 people were killed, with another victim dying later: it became known as 'Bloody Sunday'.

The killing dragged on for years. Protestants started planting bombs too, so it sometimes seemed that Northern Ireland was falling into chaos. On Good Friday 1998, the two sides reached a deal: Northern Ireland remained part of the United Kingdom, but the two sides would share power in a specially-elected Northern Ireland Assembly. This system still exists today.

1952
Elizabeth II takes the throne after death of George VI

1966
England wins the football World Cup at Wembley Stadium

1973
Britain joins the European Economic Community

1979
Margaret Thatcher named first female Prime Minister

1982
The Falklands War. Britain battles Argentina

1998
Good Friday Agreement. Peace in Northern Ireland

1999
Scottish Parliament opens after devolution vote

2003
Second Iraq War starts. Britain invades with the USA

Modern Britain
1901-present

AD 43-410

410-1066

1066-1485

1485-1603

1603-1714

1714-1837

1837-1901

The world at war

In a span of just 31 years, two world wars would take the lives of around 1.5 million Britons

The First World War was unlike any war the British had fought before. Their soldiers were stuck in trenches, while their generals tried to work out how to break through the German trenches. The trenches were deep and protected with barbed wire and it was very difficult to get past them, even if they were bombarded for days by artillery. Both sides even used poison gas to blind their enemy, and the British came up with the idea of tanks. Even so, thousands of soldiers were killed attacking the German front line and often they gained very little.

At sea, the British still had the most powerful fleet, but when they fought the German navy at Jutland in 1916, they weren't able to defeat it as they had hoped. This was further complicated by the fact that the Germans were

using submarines (U-boats) to sink cargo vessels and passenger liners. Eventually, in 1918, the Germans were defeated, but by then many were just glad the war was over and appalled at its cost.

The Battle of Britain

The Second World War was very different. The British had to pull out of France at Dunkirk and the RAF only just managed to defeat the Germans in the Battle of Britain. The Germans bombed British cities mercilessly, first with bomber aircraft and later with rockets. The British bombed

Germany back and once again the navy had to hunt for German U-boats. When the USSR and the USA came into the war on Britain's side, it was clear that Britain was the weakest of the three allies. British troops fought in North Africa, Italy and at D-Day against the Germans. They were also fighting in India and Burma against the Japanese. But the British were no longer the main players in the global conflict. In 1945, the US dropped the atomic bomb on Japan with hardly a word to their allies, but by the war's end over 450,000 Britons had been killed.

The Germans bombed British cities with aircraft and rockets

First World War and Australians and New Zealanders fought in Turkey. In the Second World War, many volunteers from the empire fought in the Battle of Britain and troops from Britain's colonies fought in all the major campaigns.

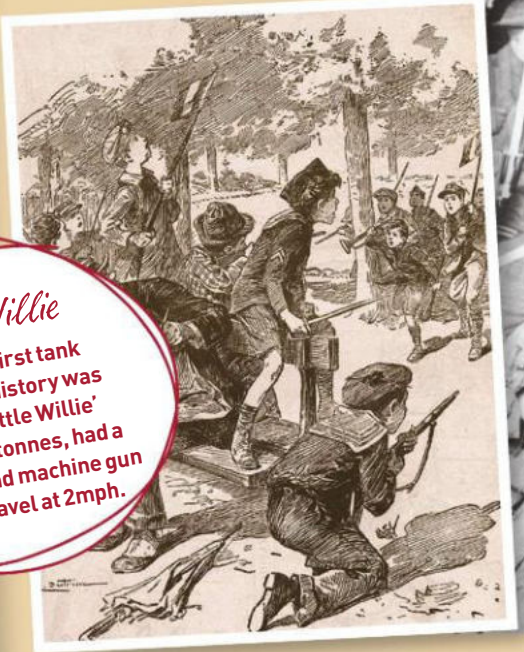
In both wars, the home front was crucial. Food supplies were limited, and women had to work in war production factories to produce the enormous amount of weapons and transport that the country needed. Historians often say that the wars helped to change people's opinions of women.

United front

In both wars, the colonies played a crucial role. Indian troops fought in the trenches in the

Little Willie
In 1915, the first tank prototype in history was unveiled. 'Little Willie' weighed 16.5 tonnes, had a Vickers 2-pound machine gun and could travel at 2mph.

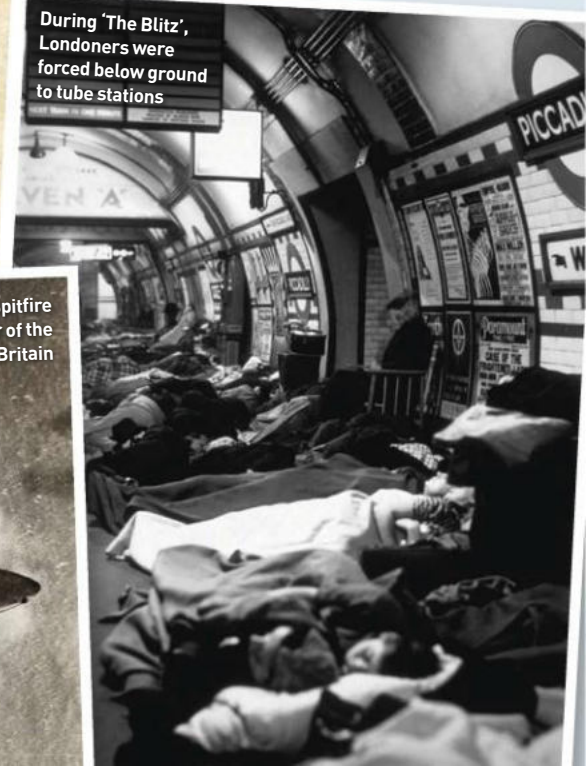
The First World War



Boys playing war in France. France suffered over 1.6 million casualties in the First World War

The Second World War

During 'The Blitz', Londoners were forced below ground to tube stations



The Supermarine Spitfire – the iconic fighter of the Battle of Britain



Soldiers go 'over the top' of a trench. Sometimes opposing trenches would be just 100 metres away

3,000 tonnes of conkers were collected by British schoolchildren. They were used to make the cordite needed to propel shells and bullets



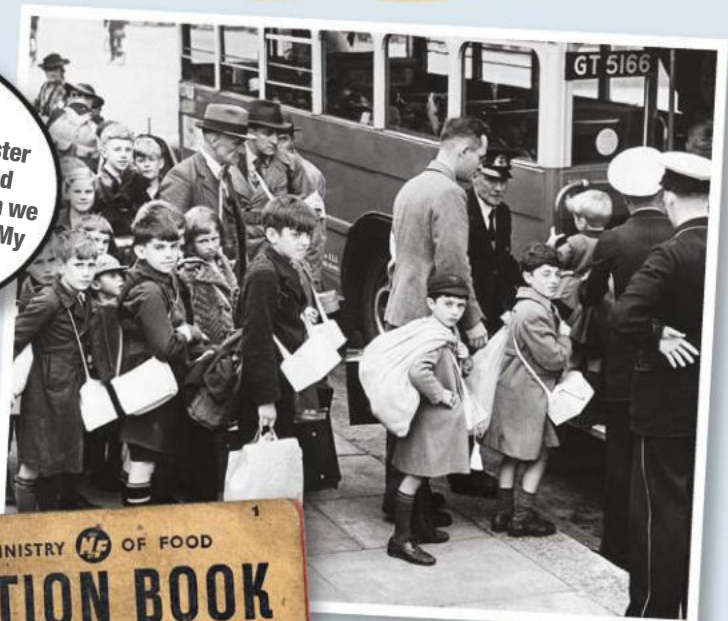
A recruiting poster for the British Army in the First World War



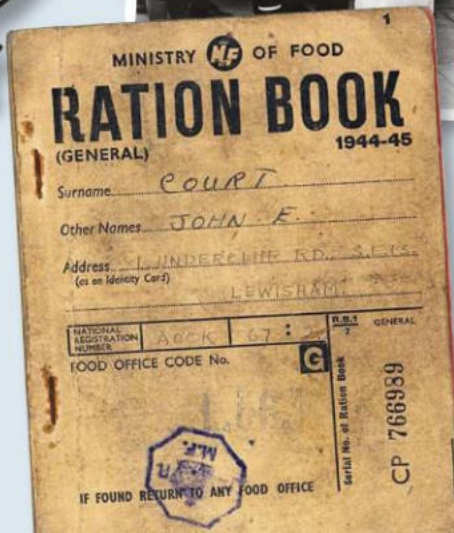
For the first years of the war, imports to Britain were unaffected, but in 1917, German U-Boats began sinking merchant vessels

A German V2 rocket launches. In terms of technological advances, the Germans were ahead of Britain, yet they still lost the war

We will fight them on the beaches! I am Sir Winston Churchill, prime minister from 1940 to '45, and I inspired Britons to NEVER surrender when we were alone in fighting Germany. My big cigars got past rationing too, somehow!



As cities were being bombed, children were moved to the safety of the countryside. Around 800,000 were evacuated



With German forces sinking cargo ships bound for Britain, food for the population was short. As a result, rationing was introduced

AD 43–410

410–1066

1066–1485

1485–1603

1603–1714

1714–1837

1837–1901

Modern Britain
1901–present

GETTY XI, ALAMY X4, SUPERSTOCK



In 1954, the first colour TV set went on sale in New York. It cost \$1,295 (around £870). That would be almost £7,000 today. The first UK colour transmission was in 1966

In 1950, 57 per cent of the driving age population had a driver's licence. By 2000 that number had risen to 88 per cent.

Technology

At the start of the 20th century humans hadn't flown; by 1969 we had landed on the moon. But communication was, perhaps, the biggest innovation

Some of the biggest changes in modern Britain have been in technology. At the start of the century, radio transmission was still a novelty: by the 1930s millions of people were tuning in to the BBC to hear music, news or comedy. By the 1950s, radio was more popular than ever, but television was quickly catching on. The first sets were fuzzy and difficult to watch but the quality soon improved. In 1953, thousands of people watched the Queen's coronation on television and from then on it became more common for people to have their own set.

Cars began as a luxury item until Henry Ford made them affordable. Even so, by the 1930s cars were really for the middle classes: most working people couldn't afford one. By the 1960s, however, more people had their own cars and motorways had to be built to take them all. On the other hand, train travel was in trouble: many small lines were uneconomical and in 1963

Dr Beeching proposed massive cuts in these local railway lines: he believed that most people would be travelling by car in the future.

Many important pieces of technology were in the home. Vacuum cleaners, washing machines and refrigerators made a huge difference to ordinary life and they made it possible to get by without having to employ servants. Domestic service, which had been one of the biggest forms of employment in 1900, had virtually disappeared by the 1950s.

Some technological breakthroughs were so exciting it was difficult to see how they could affect ordinary people. When astronauts walked on the moon, it was exciting to see that it was possible, but it wasn't clear what difference it would make to anyone's lives. But space exploration put thousands of satellites into orbit, and these soon became part of ordinary life, beaming



down TV pictures, and even helping people drive from A to B.

Even bigger was the impact of computing. This had started with the wartime codebreakers at Bletchley Park, solving fiendishly clever ciphers, but by the 1980s personal computers were becoming more widely available and beginning to appear in homes and schools. Tim Berners-Lee invented the world wide web as a way of allowing everyone to have access to all the world's information at the click of a button.

QUICK QUIZ: Who was the first Briton to travel into space? Find the answer below...

1901–present Modern Britain

➤ able to defeat the German air force in the Battle of Britain. The Germans bombed London and other cities very heavily. Food, petrol and clothing were all rationed and many children were evacuated from the cities to the countryside to keep them safe from the bombs. Thousands of Americans were stationed in Britain during the war and, in 1944, British and American troops staged a huge landing in France on D-Day, to start the liberation of Europe from the Nazis.

Health and safety

Britain was on the winning side in the Second World War, but it was exhausted. In 1945, Churchill was voted out of office and a Labour government took over. The biggest change they made was to create the National Health Service: for the first time, people would not have to pay when they went to the doctor. The government also nationalised (took over) the railways and the main industries. Much less popular was their policy of 'austerity' – even stricter rationing than during the war and big cuts in public spending. To make things even gloomier, Britain's empire seemed to be collapsing: India became independent and Britain pulled out of

Palestine. In 1956, Britain and France sent troops into Egypt to take hold of the Suez Canal, but the rest of the world said what they had done was wrong and they had to pull out again.

Moreover, thousands of immigrants were arriving from parts of the empire, like India, Pakistan and the West Indies. Britain was becoming much more ethnically mixed. In 1973, Britain seemed to turn its back on the empire when it joined the European Economic Community (now the European Union, or EU).

By the 1960s, money was flowing in the economy again and young people spent it on new fashions and pop music. British groups like the Beatles and the Rolling Stones made 'Swinging London' the world centre of pop culture: in 1966 England even won the World Cup. But the Sixties mood didn't last. In the 1970s, prices shot up and many workers came out on strike for more wages. The trade unions became so powerful that people began to wonder who was really running the country. In the winter of 1978–79, so many unions came out on strike that there were piles of uncollected rubbish in the streets.

Growing web
By 2015, some 22.5 million British households – around 86 per cent – had connection to the internet. Access to the web only really started making it into homes in 1997.

In 1979, Margaret Thatcher was elected prime minister and she brought in big changes: industries were privatised and unions were not allowed to call people out on strike so easily. She helped many buy their own homes and when Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands, she sent an army to drive them out. However, many people bitterly opposed her radical reforms.

Present day

By the 21st century, people in Britain enjoyed watching television and were increasingly owning computers. They were more racially mixed, more tolerant and had much better housing, schools and healthcare than at any time in the past. **II**



Margaret Thatcher was Britain's first female prime minister and would win three general elections

2012 Olympics and Paralympics

London became the first city to host the Olympic Games three times, having previously done so in 1908 and 1948. The games were considered a huge success, as were the Paralympic Games, which immediately followed.



(left) Jessica Ennis celebrates gold in the heptathlon. (below) Swimmer Ellie Simmonds took two golds at the London Paralympics



TOP 10 STRANGE-BUT-TRUE LAWS

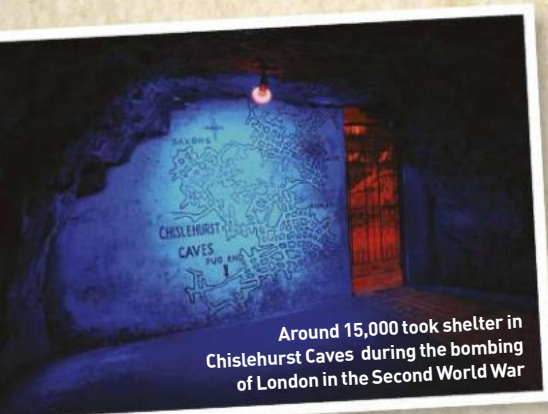
- 1 You can't keep a pigsty in front of your house
- 2 Singing obscene songs in the street is illegal
- 3 Knocking on doors needlessly is against the law
- 4 No driving cows along the street during daytime
- 5 Only the monarch can eat swans in Britain
- 6 No drinking and driving cows in Scotland
- 7 It's illegal to die in the Houses of Parliament
- 8 Beached whales must be offered to the Queen
- 9 London's black cabs can't carry corpses
- 10 No handling salmon in suspicious circumstances

Quiz answer p 105: The Hawker Hurricane fighter plane.
Quiz answer p 109: Helen Sharmon, a chemist, travelled to the Mir space station on 18 May 1991.

Get out of
the house
and make
history come
to life!

Places to visit

From football history and the view high above London to 22 miles of caves beneath the nation's capital. There's plenty to see



Around 15,000 took shelter in Chislehurst Caves during the bombing of London in the Second World War

1 CHISLEHURST CAVES – KENT

At the height of The Blitz these caves were some of the largest air-raid shelters in Britain, saving over 15,000 people. The caves went on to become a music venue in the Sixties for some of the most famous names in pop and rock.

Caveside Close, Old Hill, Chislehurst, Kent BR7 5NL

☎ 020 8467 3264

► www.chislehurst-caves.co.uk

Wednesday to Sunday 10am–4pm (every day in school holidays)

£ Adult ticket £6.00

Child ticket £4.00

2 PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS – NORTHERN IRELAND

The impressive Parliament Buildings in Stormont were built in 1921 to house the Government of Northern Ireland and since the Good Friday agreement of 1998 have been home to the Northern Ireland Assembly. Look around the 'House on the Hill' and enjoy the beautiful grounds of Stormont estate.

Parliament Buildings, Ballymiscaw, Stormont, Belfast BT4 3XX

☎ 028 9052 1137

► www.niassembly.gov.uk

Open Monday–Friday 9am–4pm

£ Free admission

3 THE VIEW FROM THE SHARD – LONDON

At a height of 1,016ft (310m), The Shard currently stands as the tallest building in western Europe. Get an unrivalled view of London from the colossal 72nd floor and see one of the greatest cities in the world as you've never seen it before.

32 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9SG

☎ 0844 499 7111

► www.theviewfromtheshard.com

Open daily 10am–10pm

£ Adult ticket £25.95

Child ticket £19.95 (advised to pre-book)

4 NATIONAL FOOTBALL MUSEUM – MANCHESTER

Experience the country's most loved sport in one of the most famous footballing cities in the world. This museum has over 140,000 collectable items from footballing history and truly tells the story of 'the beautiful game'.

Urbis Building, Cathedral Gardens, Manchester M4 3BG

☎ 0161 605 8200

► www.nationalfootballmuseum.com

Open daily 10am–5pm,

£ Free admission

5 MUSEUM OF TRANSPORT – GREATER MANCHESTER

Take a ride through time at one of Britain's biggest collections of restored trams, buses and coaches. Get up close and personal with movie and television vehicles that appeared in *Harry Potter*, *East is East* and *Life on Mars*, to name a few. From a horse-drawn bus to a Metrolink tram, you'll find out how we got to the high-tech cars that we drive today. Enjoy 90 vintage vehicles, many of which have been fully restored and now look resplendent in their original liveries, with pride of place going to the Victorian horse-drawn bus, circa 1890. Manchester travel through the years!

Boyle Street, Cheetham, Manchester M8 8UW

☎ 0161 205 2122

► www.gmts.co.uk/index.html

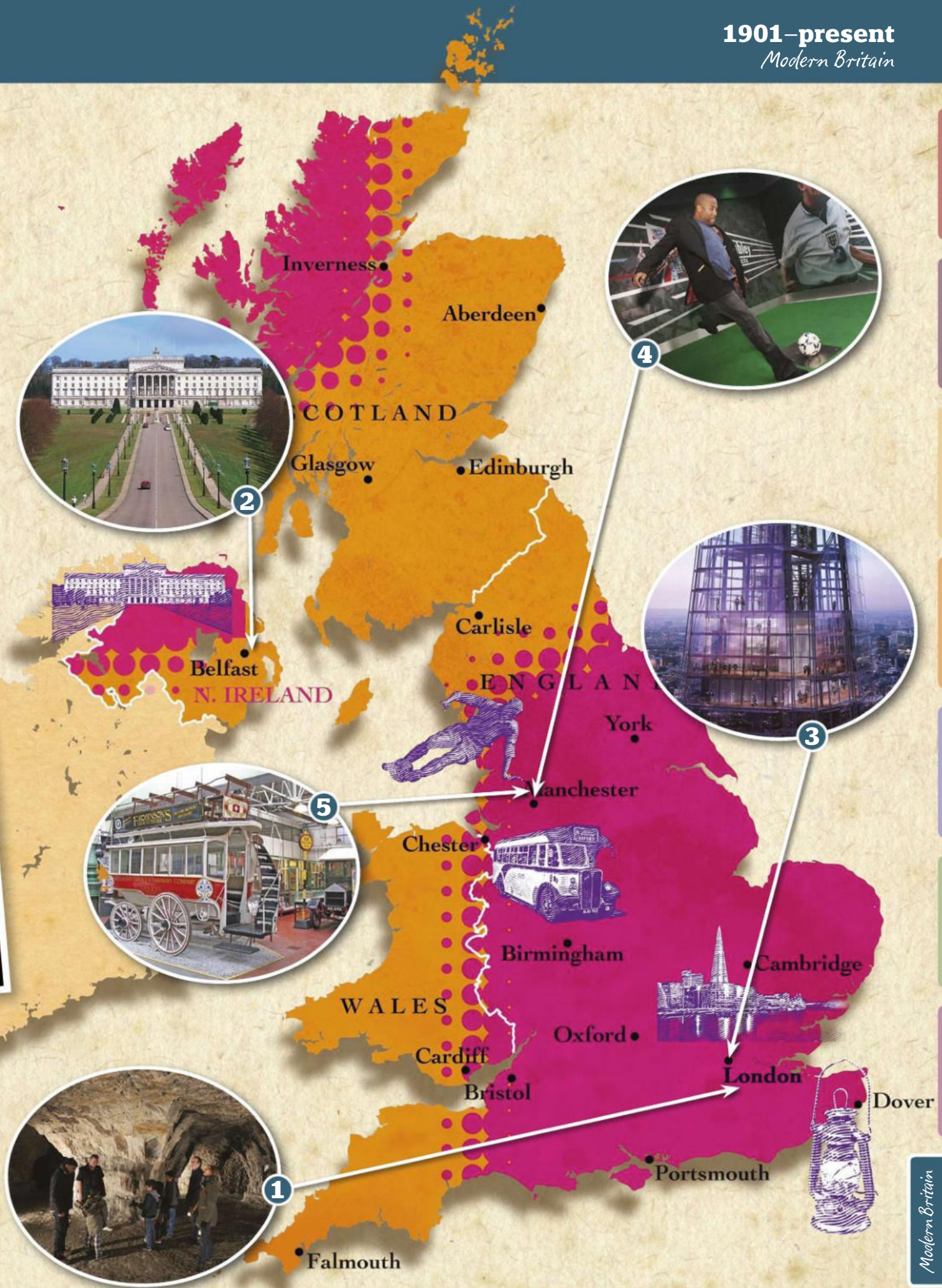
Open Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, all bank holidays, and every day in August, 10am–4.30pm

£ Adult ticket £4.00

Children free



The museum is housed in one of Manchester's first bus depots



AD 43–410

410–1066

1066–1485

1485–1603

1603–1714

1714–1837

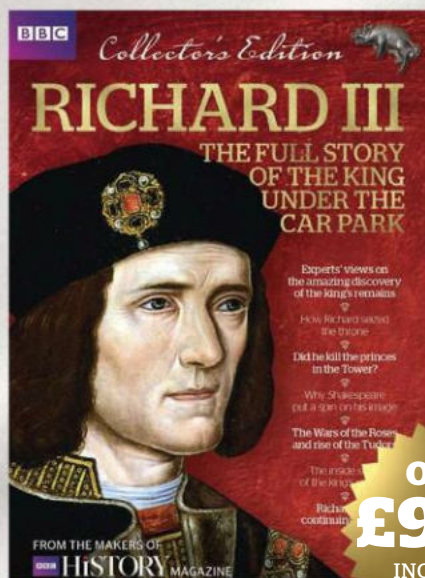
1837–1901

Modern Britain
1901–present

Collector's Editions

FROM THE MAKERS OF

BBC **HiSTORY**
MAGAZINE

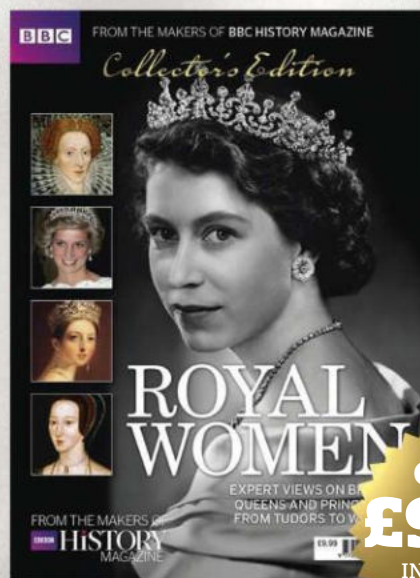


Richard III

This collector's edition offers the complete guide to the most divisive monarch in English history, from his controversial rise to power to his death at the battle of Bosworth.

ONLY
£9.99

INCLUDING
FREE UK P&P*

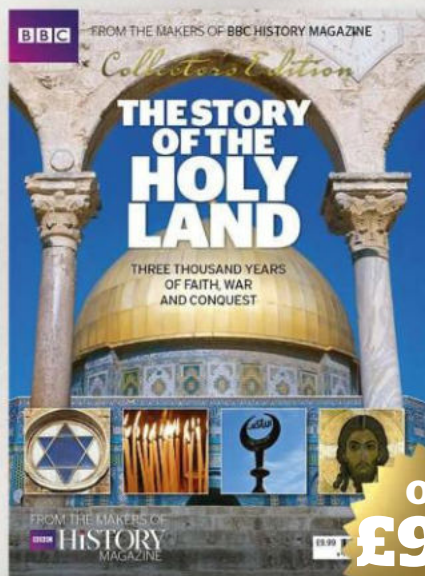


Royal Women

Explore the lives of queens, princesses and mistresses – from Boudica and Anne Boleyn to Princess Diana and Kate Middleton – with this collector's edition.

ONLY
£9.99

INCLUDING
FREE UK P&P*

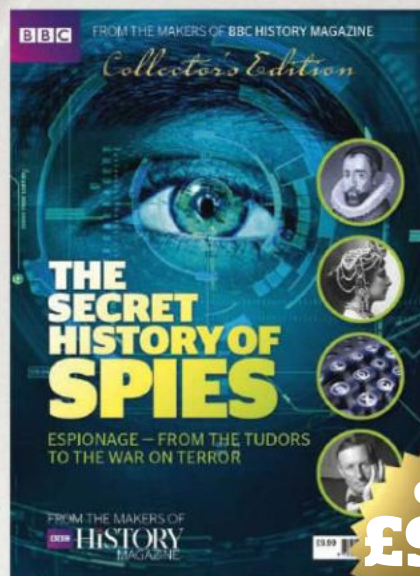


The Story of the Holy Land

From the ancient world of the Bible to the 21st century, we dissect the fascinating history of a small land that has become central to three global faiths.

ONLY
£9.99

INCLUDING
FREE UK P&P*



The Secret History of Spies

We chart the extraordinary history of espionage from Tudor times to the digital age and offer fresh insights into the secret wars that shaped many recent conflicts.

ONLY
£9.99

INCLUDING
FREE UK P&P*

Order online www.buysubscriptions.com/historyspec
or call us on **0844 844 0250**⁺

⁺ Calls will cost 7p per minute plus your telephone company's access charge. Lines are open 8am-8pm weekdays & 9am-1pm Saturday.
* Subscribers to *BBC History Magazine* receive FREE UK postage on these special editions. Prices including postage are: £11.49 each for all other UK residents, £12.99 each for Europe and £13.49 each for Rest of World.

More for you...

If you like what you've read in this special edition, you'll find plenty more great history in *BBC History Magazine* and on the History Extra website



The magazine

Britain's bestselling history magazine is available to buy all over the world. You can read it in print and in many digital formats, including the Kindle, the iPad and Google Play.

historyextra.com

The website is packed with history quizzes, image galleries, features, blogs and the popular podcast. Here you will also find details of all the magazine's subscription offers for print and digital.



Be the first to find out about history news, events and promotions:



facebook.com/historyextra



twitter.com/historyextra

Britain in numbers

Fascinating facts about the eighth largest island in the world...

60,000

British troops killed or wounded on day one of the First World War battle of the Somme

8mph – the speed for which the first speeding fine was issued, in a 2mph zone

38

The number of minutes the Anglo-Zanzibar war lasted. (Although, some people claim it went on for up to 45 minutes. Either way, it was pretty short!)

£9,375

The sum paid for a pair of Queen Victoria's bloomers at auction

250 million

The amount of whisky in litres that Scotland produces each year – that's 4,546 swimming pools

11 million

gallons of tea are drunk in Britain every day

The age of Richard II's second wife, Princess Isabella of France

No place in Britain is more than **74½** miles away from the sea

250

The number of names in the first telephone directory

58

characters in the name of a Welsh village. "The next station is... Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllllantysiliogogogoch"



HISTORY REVEALED

Save when you subscribe
to the digital edition



Available from



FROM THE MAKERS OF **BBC HISTORY MAGAZINE**

Classic Stories

THE STORY OF BRITAIN

Take a whistle-stop tour of the key characters and events that shaped our islands, taking in everyone from Roman rulers and Viking raiders to Tudor queens and brilliant Victorian engineers



FROM THE MAKERS OF  **HiSTORY** MAGAZINE